

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

BOBBY RUIZ



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The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

Annual Christmas Bird Count, 1944

We received from members of the North Carolina Bird Club complete Christmas counts from 10 localities, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Greensboro, Highlands, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Raleigh, Washington, Windom, and Winston-Salem. (Two other localities, Hickory and Mount Olive, also sent in counts, but their trips, about four hours each, were too brief to be included in the official count, and their reports are listed under *Field Notes and News*.) The ten localities reported a total of 109 different species and at least two additional subspecies for Chickadees and Juncos. In 1943, ten localities reported 97 species, and in 1942 eleven localities reported 121 species. (Announcement of the official dates for the national 1944 count, Dec. 25-Jan. 1, was received Dec. 8, too late for inclusion in the November *Chat*.)

In the number of species, Raleigh leads our 1944 count, with a total of 73. The Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, N. C., is first with the number of individuals, listing 18,548, and is second in number of species, with 66. High species numbers in past Christmas counts have been Chapel Hill with 75, and Rocky Mount with 73. This year Chapel Hill reports 61 species, a close third, and Greensboro is next with 58 species. Greensboro's report of 10,585 individuals is due largely to a lucky find of a flock of approximately 1,200 Robins and an estimated 5,000 Starlings which have taken over a couple of blocks of Greensboro's main business section for a winter roosting place.

None of the counts recorded Coot, Blue-head Vireo, or Redpoll, though the localities represented extend from Mattamuskeet and Washington in eastern North Carolina to Highlands and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, along the Tennessee-North Carolina line, in the region of Mount LeConte. Almost no Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins were reported. Last year most North Carolina counts listed some Red-breasted Nuthatches (Greensboro reported 102 in 1943), while Pine Siskins were reported in considerable numbers last year in the counts from Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Raleigh, and the Great Smokies Park. This year Chipping Sparrows are reported only from Winston-Salem (17), and Washington (3). Catbirds are reported from Charlotte (1) and Mattamuskeet (3).

Following are some of the most interesting records of the 1944 count: The Great Smokies National Park lists Prairie Horned Lark (5) for the first time on their Christmas count, but their prize record was a Red Phalarope, which was found dead. Charlotte's Mecklenburg Audubon Club reports two Bachman's Sparrows; the Mattamuskeet report includes two

Maryland Yellow-throats and two American Egrets, the latter apparently a new winter record for North Carolina; two Lark Sparrows are reported at Greensboro.

Following are the official lists of bird counts from the 10 localities. (A list of a second count by the Winston-Salem Bird Club arrived too late to be included):

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.—(University Lake, Eastwood Lake, Odum Farm, Morgan's Creek, Strowd's Lowground Campus, water and mixed shore 40%, upland deciduous woods 15%, pine forest and sedge fields 5%, pasture and open farmland 25%, lowland thickets, rushes, and lake marsh 10%, town 5%, Dec. 25; dawn to 4 p. m. Overcast to clear; temp. 42 to 60 degrees; no wind. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total hours, 24; total miles, 16 on foot. Pied-Billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 10; Black Duck, 35; Ring-necked Duck, 9; Lesser Scaup Duck, 1; Bufflehead, 15; Hooded Merganser, 1; American Merganser, 6; Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 4; Killdeer, 18; Woodcock, 2; Herring Gull, 1 (found dead in water by E. O., red blood indicated bird possibly not dead more than 12 hours); Mourning Dove, 160; Barred Owl (heard), 2; Flicker, 30; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10; Yellow-billed Sapsucker, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Phoebe, 6; Blue Jay, 34; Crow, 38; Carolina Chickadee, 43; Tufted Titmouse, 36; White-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 8; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 8; Carolina Wren, 21; Mockingbird, 5; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 14; Hermit Thrush, 37; Bluebird, 136; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 38; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 16; Shrike, 2; Starling, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 45; Pine Warbler, 6; English Sparrow, 6; Meadowlark, 15; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 31; Purple Finch, 18; Goldfinch, 40; Towhee, 15; Savannah Sparrow, 18; Junco, 170; White-throated Sparrow, 180; Fox Sparrow, 35; Swamp Sparrow, 53; Song Sparrow, 160. Total, 62 species; 1,619 individuals. Very fresh turkey tracks seen by E. O.—Eugene Odum, Thomas Odum, Mrs. H. W. Walters, Phillips Russell, Mrs. O. F. Jensen, David Sharpe, Fremont Shepherd (Chapel Hill Bird Club).

CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N. C.—(Same area as 1943 and earlier counts plus city garden, Winghaven.) Open woodland 50%, fields 20%, balance in roadside hedges and a small mill pond. December 31, 8:15 A. M. to 5:10 P. M. Medium fog to light mist throughout day. Little or no wind. Temp. 40 to 45 degrees. Ground soaked. Five observers together in forenoon; three observing independently in afternoon. Total hours 12½ on foot; forty minutes in car. Total miles 23; nine miles on foot. Mourning Dove, 11; Screech Owl, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 4; Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 6; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 3; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 2; Catbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 2; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 7; English Sparrow, 3; Meadowlark, 3; Purple Finch, 3; Cardinal, 21; Goldfinch, 45; Red-eyed Towhee, 3; Bachman's Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 75; Field Sparrow, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 42; Song Sparrow, 5. Total, 33 species; 276 individuals.—Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Mrs. Charles DeF. Lucas, B. R. Chamberlain, B. R. Chamberlain, Jr., Jim Layton, Bud Moon (Mecklenburg Audubon Club.)

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, TENN.—(Same area as in past 7 years; circle of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, including a section of the Tennessee-North Carolina divide from Indian Gap to Sweathelifer Trail; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge; sprucefir forests 30%, stream courses 25%, deciduous forests 5%, abandoned fields 15%, open farm land 15%, towns and suburbs 5%, pine forests 5%). Dec. 17. Fair; temp. 22 to 58 degrees F.; wind variable, 1-7 m.p.h.; ground mostly bare in the lowlands, 12 inches of snow in the high mountains, snowdrifts 2 and 3 feet deep on some trails; streams open in lowlands, frozen over in mountains. Altitude range 1200 to 6300 feet. Seventeen observers in six parties. Total hours afield, 29; total miles (on foot), 23. Coopers Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Red Phalarope, 1; Mourning Dove, 18; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Phoebe, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 5; Blue Jay, 7; Raven, 6; Crow, 261 (est.); Chickadee (both Black-capped and Carolina observed), 97; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Winter Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 16; Mockingbird, 5; Robin, 25; Hermit Thrush, 4; Bluebird, 32; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 13; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 79; English Sparrow, 119 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 15; Meadowlark, 34 (flock); Purple Grackle, 5; Cardinal, 73; Purple Finch, 4; Pine Siskin, 96 (3 flocks); Goldfinch, 103; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Junco (both slate-colored and Carolina), 53; Field Sparrow, 24; White-throated Sparrow, 15; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 74. Total, 46 species and sub-species, approximately 1,235 individuals. (Fox Sparrow and Bob-white both found Dec. 15, near Gatlinburg). Prairie Horned Lark recorded for first time on Christmas census. The Red Phalarope was found dead in the road near Little Pigeon River at Park Headquarters building. The bird was first measured then a study skin was made. It will be given to Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, Gatlinburg, Tenn.—West Barber, Harvey Broome, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunbar, Mrs. Muriel Hill, W. M. Johnson, Bob Johnson, Jim Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonard, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, Elise Morrell, Mrs. W. M. Walker, W. M. Walker (compiler), Mary Williams, Dr. Dorothy E. Williams (members and guests of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society), and Mary Ruth Chiles (National Park Service).

GREENSBORO, N. C.—(Section 15 miles across; including Pinecroft, Star-mount, the Richardson estate, Greensboro Country Park, and Lakes Philadelphia, Buffalo, Scales, Sharpe, White Oak, and Brandt; deciduous and mixed woodland 30%, open fields 20%; cattail marsh and thicket 15%; small freshwater lakes 25%; city yards and campuses 10%.) Dec. 30—6:15 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. Sky overcast, light fog most of day, trees covered with ice; temp. 35 degrees. Twenty-one observers, mostly in 8 parties. Total hours, 54; total miles, 46 (on foot). Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 2; Black Duck, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 30; Red-headed Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup Duck, 3; American Golden-eye, 2; Buffle-head, 9; American Merganser, 7; Turkey Vulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Bob-White, 68; Killdeer, 2; Mourning Dove, 29; Screech Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 6; Flicker, 15; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 11; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 28; Phoebe, 4; Horned Lark, 40; Blue Jay, 83; Crow, 108; Chickadee, 117; Tufted Titmouse, 35; White-breasted Nuthatch, 18; Brown Creeper, 16; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 44; Mockingbird, 73; Robin, 1,200 (est.); Hermit Thrush, 8; Bluebird, 74; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 103; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 45; Cedar Waxwing, 88; Shrike, 6; Starling, 5,000 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 4; Pine Warbler, 24; English Sparrow, 381; Meadowlark, 104; Red-wing, 10; Cardinal, 220; Goldfinch, 297; Towhee, 54; Lark Sparrow, 3 (Edith Settan, Etta Schiffman); Junco, 1,261; Field Sparrow, 190;

White-throated Sparrow, 413; Swamp Sparrow, 18; Song Sparrow, 303. Total, 58 species, approximately 10,585 individuals.—Mrs. W. V. Blackburn, John Carr, Miss Inez Coldwell, Billy Craft, Mrs. Floyd Craft, Larry Crawford, Mrs. Robert Douglas, Miss Sidney Holmes, Miss Sarah Lesley, Hugh L. Medford, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Perrett, Miss Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Mrs. Robert Settan, A. D. Shaftesbury, George Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. M. Swart, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall (compiler), and Tom Zapf (members and guests of the Piedmont Bird Club).

HIGHLANDS, N. C.—Altitude, 3,800-4,000 feet. (Unpaved roads and trails leading to Highlands Biological Laboratory, Highlands Manor Field, Lake Ravenel and Harris Lake.) Deciduous forests 45%, abandoned field 10%, lakes 20%, village 5%, pine forests 20%. Dec. 24—Foggy and overcast; temp., 53 degrees F. to 55 degrees F.; wind SW-NW; Lake Ravenel frozen over; Harris Lake $\frac{1}{4}$ frozen; ground with patches of snow. One observer (Howell) 4½ hours, two observers 2½ hours. Total hours, 7 on foot; total miles, 4 on foot. Blue Jay, 5; Tufted Titmouse, 3; Carolina Wren, 1; Rusty Blackbird, 6; Cardinal, 3; Red-eyed Towhee, 1; Carolina Junco, 7; 7 species, 26 individuals.—Thelma Howell, Henry Wright.

MATTAMUSKEET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, NEW HOLLAND, N. C.—(Same area as 1940 and subsequent counts; Mattamuskeet Refuge and adjacent woods and fields; including public road across the Lake; marsh 30%, open water 4%, fields and thickets 20%, pine and cypress woods 10%). Dec. 28, 1944—8:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Clear to light overcast; ground bare; wind NW to NE, approximately 5 miles per hour; temp. 40 to 53 degrees F. Six observers mostly together. Total hours afield, 11; total miles, 19 by car, 4 on foot. Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 11; American Egret, 2; Whistling Swan, 1,595; Canada Goose, 11,476 (partly est.); Snow Goose, 1; Mallard, 33; Black Duck, 185; Baldpate, 12; Pintail, 2,805 (part est.); Scaup Duck, 2; Ruddy Duck, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Turkey Vulture, 7; Black Vulture, 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 15; Marsh Hawk, 8; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Herring Gull, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 3; Mourning Dove, 27; Flicker, 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Phoebe, 4; Tree Swallow, 14; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 59; Fish Crow, 9; Carolina Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 3; Carolina Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 7; Catbird, 6; Brown Thrasher, 4; Robin, 41; Hermit Thrush, 4; Bluebird, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Pipit, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 7; Shrike, 2; Starling, 92; Myrtle Warbler, 365; Maryland Yellow-throat, 2; English Sparrow, 12; Meadowlark, 66; Red-wing, 1,485 (part est.); Purple Grackle, 26; Cardinal, 8; Goldfinch, 9; Red-eyed Towhee, 9; Slate-colored Junco, 2; Tree Sparrow, 2; Field Sparrow, 4; White-throated sparrow, 32; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 11; Total, 66 species; 18,548 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 25, Killdeer, 6; Dec. 29, Bobwhite, 12; Dec. 30, America Bittern, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1).—R. L. Wolff and D. J. Rose, Jr., Goldsboro; Tom Zapf and Larry Crawford, Greensboro; S. H. Lamb and W. G. Cahoon, New Holland, N. C. (Wolff, Zapf and Crawford, all N. C. Bird Club members, and Rose made trip to Mattamuskeet purposely for the census.)

RALEIGH, N. C.—(Practically same area as previous counts; lakes and small ponds 40%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 15%, deciduous woodland 25%, pine woodland 10%, open fields 10%). Dec. 28—8:30-5:30. Fair most of day, slightly cloudy in late P. M.; calm in A. M.; wind SW, varying from 1-7 mph. in P. M.; temp. 36 to 60 degrees F.; ground bare, water open. Fifteen observers in six parties. Total hours, 25 (22 on foot, 3 by car); total miles, 35 (27 on foot, 8 by car). Double Crested Cormorant, 2; Great Blue Heron, 1; Whistling Swan,

9; Mallard, 183; Black Duck, 92; Gadwall, 4; Pintail, 20; Green-winged Teal, 1; Shoveller, 2; Redhead, 12; Ring-necked Duck, 200; Canvasback, 18; Lesser Scaup Duck, 5; American Golden-eye, 3; Bufflehead, 3; Old Squaw, 1; Ruddy Duck, 9; Hooded Merganser, 1; American Merganser, 5; Red-Breasted Merganser, 4; Turkey Vulture, 25; Black Vulture, 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Bob-white, 12; Killdeer, 12; Mourning Dove, 32; Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 16; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 10; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 31; Crow, 44; Chickadee, 52; Titmouse, 19; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 27; Robin, 6; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 43; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 9; American Pipit, 10; Cedar Waxwing, 32; Shrike, 4; Starling, 105; Myrtle Warbler, 16; Pine Warbler, 35; English Sparrow, 33; Meadowlark, 54; Cowbird, 120; Cardinal, 21; Purple Finch, 11; Goldfinch, 131; Towhee, 18; Savannah Sparrow, 14; Vesper Sparrow, 3; Junco, 251; Field Sparrow, 115; White-throated Sparrow, 66; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 68. Total, 73 species; 2,080 individuals.—D. L. Wray, Mrs. C. H. Green, E. W. Winkler, F. B. Meacham, C. H. Bostian, Robert Overing, G. M. Garren, Ernest Mitchell, Jr., John Coffey, Jr., Robert Cooper, Oscar Williams, Perrin Gower, Calvin Koonce, Dickie Tippet, Harry T. Davis.

WASHINGTON, N. C.—(Pamlico River shore and north, along borders of fields, swamps, and hardwood stands bordering Runyon's Creek; Pioneer's Bluff woods and west over route of previous census; river shore 25%, field borders and hedge rows 60%, open fields 5%, mature deciduous and pine woods mixed 10%.) Dec. 26—8:00 A. M.-1:00 P. M.; 2:30 P. M.-5:30 P. M.; light drizzling rain, warm, no wind, until 11:50 A. M.; cold front moved in, wind velocity 19-24 mph, NNE, hard rain; temp. 57 to 38 degrees. Two observers in morning, three in afternoon, together, total hours, 8; total miles, 8 on foot. Great Blue Heron, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 8; Herring Gull, 25 (est.); Ring-billed Gull, 75 (est.); Mourning Dove, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 39; Carolina Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 7; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 9; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 9; Myrtle Warbler, 61; Pine Warbler, 11; English Sparrow, 17; Meadowlark, 8; Rusty Blackbird, 1,500 (est.); Cardinal, 13; Goldfinch, 3; Towhee, 8; Junco, 20; Chipping Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 200 (est.); Fox Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 4. (Seen following day at mouth of Bath Creek: 35 Whistling Swan with flock of 125 Coots). Total, 38 species, 2,069 individuals.—Mrs. E. M. Brown, Victor Shelburne, Jr., Mary Shelburne Crawford.

WINDOM, N. C.—(Mrs. C. P. Gibson farm, farm of L. H. Hutchins and of Mack Silver and adjacent territory; open farm land 50%, white pine woodland 2%, pasture land 18%, deciduous forests, 30%). Dec. 30—9 A. M. to dusk. Cloudy; temp. 40 to 45 degrees F.; wind still; limbs and foliage covered with sleet in forenoon; three observers in one party; total hours, 8 (all on foot); total miles, 8 (all on foot). Greater Scaup Duck, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 14; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 53; Tufted Titmouse, 10; Carolina Wren, 3; Hermit Thrush, 10; Bluebird, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 9; English Sparrow, 64; Cardinal, 23; Goldfinch, 24; Towhee, 9; Junco, 45; Field Sparrow, 50; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 20. Total, 20 species; 350 individuals.—James Hutchins, Roosevelt Hughes, Paul Hughes.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—(Area $\frac{1}{2}$ last year, 6 mile radius, 32% wooded, 68% open fields, including 4 organized bird sanctuaries.) Dec. 26th, 1944. Sky overcast A. M., clear P. M.; temp. 52 to 40 degrees; light wind NW; 12 observers in 6 parties; total hours afoot, 13; total miles afoot, 15; 6 by car. Canada Goose, 174; Turkey Vulture, 4; Cooper Hawks, 2; Bob-white, 8; Mourning Dove, 24; Flicker, 7; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Crow, 86; Carolina Chickadee, 18; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 5; Bluebird, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 17; Starling 45; Myrtle Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 59; Meadowlark, 100; Cardinal, 9; Towhee, 4; Junco, 178; Chipping Sparrow, 17; Field Sparrow, 20; White-throated Sparrow, 18; Swamp Sparrow, 2. Total, 28 species; 822 birds. (This is the first count made by the resident operators of our four official bird sanctuaries. Canada Geese on Yadkin River only 10% of former years count; reason given by the owners of river bank is "too many low flying airplanes.")—Douglass, Burton, and Eleanor Rights, Robert N. White, Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Yoder, S. O. White, Charles H. Babcock, Jr., John Clark, Harold Folds, George Harland, Billy Mullis, Henry Magie (Winston-Salem Bird Club).

Christmas Count at the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

SAMUEL H. LAMB, Refuge Manager, New Holland, N. C.

We have 66 species for the day we took the 1944 Christmas count (Dec. 28), and 4 additional species for other days during the week. For the day we took the count this is 11 more species than the next best year, 1942. We listed 18,548 individuals, which is approximately twice the number listed in 1941, the next best year. Of the 66 species listed, we find that 8 are species not previously listed by us in Christmas bird counts, including American Egret, Scaup Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Pipit, and Cedar Waxwing. The large list is due in part to the hard work of Messrs. R. L. Wolff, Tom Zapf, and Larry Crawford, N. C. B. C. members, and D. J. Rose, Jr.

These Christmas bird counts have been taken here each year since 1939. We have made a composite list, and find that we now have 83 species listed one or more times. We are working hard this year to find all the possibles but that is not likely in any one year. We are most surprised to find the American Egret here. We saw two of them quite close so there was no chance of mistaking them. We believe this is a new winter record for North Carolina.

It is interesting to go over our composite list of the six censuses and see how nearly uniform is the number of birds of each species seen each year. Outside of geese and swans, whose numbers vary quite a bit from year to year, we could sit down and compile a bird count that would not miss more than one or two the number of each kind to be expected. We believe that any club which has made as many as five counts would find it very instructive to compile a composite list.

News of Local Clubs

HENDERSON BIRD CLUB: Our membership is 35, but we have the co-operation of many other Henderson residents, for there are a great many who show their love and interest in birds, though they may not be members of the Club. We meet in private homes, on the third Monday night of each month except July, August, and December. The Christmas Bird Count takes the place of the December meeting. We endeavor to have two outdoor meetings in the spring and two in the fall, each preceded by a field trip for those desiring to participate.

One of the most enjoyable events of the past year was the April field trip, led by Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson, of Raleigh and Washington, D. C. This trip was a success in every way, and we added three birds to Henderson's list. For the Alexander Sprunt, Jr., lecture we were unable to take care of all who wanted tickets. We have another National Audubon Society speaker scheduled for March. The president of the North Carolina Bird Club, Miss Clara Hearne, was present for the November meeting.

Under the leadership of Miss Claudia Hunter, ten Boy Scouts passed off their work for bird study merit badges during the past year. It is especially good to know that birding "took" with several of them and that their interest was not just a thing of the moment. Some of the members serve also as counselors in nature study for the Girl Scouts. One of our members, Miss Garnet Myers, while a student herself, acted as assistant in a nature study course at E. C. T. C. during the past summer. There are several organized Junior Bird Clubs in the Henderson schools, some of them with national affiliation. A considerable number of our members are teachers, and emphasize this phase of nature study.

The club has purchased a set of the Cornell University records of bird songs. By using these in connection with our programs, we hope to enlarge our knowledge of bird calls. We are keeping a record book of dates of first arrivals and last dates seen, and expect to collect and preserve valuable data concerning this section. Work is also being done toward resumption of a column we had in the Henderson Daily Dispatch for several years.

JEANETTE S. BACHMAN.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB: Instead of the regular November meeting, the Piedmont Bird Club were guests of the Zoology Field Club at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, on the evening of Nov. 28, and enjoyed several moving pictures of birds, including the beautiful colored pictures, *Birds of the Spring Woods* and *At Home With the Birds of the Maine Woods*.

The event looked forward to by everyone was the annual dinner meeting, held this year on the evening of Dec. 7, at the parish house of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, in Greensboro. The beautiful Christmas decorations, the lively and interesting program, and the spirit of good fellowship made it an occasion which will long be remembered by the 95 members and guests who attended. The program, planned by Mrs. Edith Settan, included games and contests under the direction of Raymond Kaighn; South American Christmas carols sung by Mrs. Rose Summers, of Montevideo, Uruguay; and a motion picture, *High Over the Borders*. Floyd Craft gave a report of the recent annual meeting of the National Audubon Society which he and Mrs. Craft attended in New York. R. D. Douglas announced the city council's final approval of the Greensboro Bird Sanctuary, a project on which the local club has worked very hard for the past year. New officers elected at the meeting include: President, Mrs. Edith Settan; First Vice-president, Mrs. George Perrett; Second Vice-president, Miss Sarah Leslie; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Floyd Hugh Craft; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Evelyn Cook; Treasurer, J. E. Maxey. After the election, amid much merriment the past presidents who were present initiated the retiring president, Mrs. Chas. M. Swart, into the Order of Lane

Ducks. Plans were announced for our Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 30, which winds up our activity for the 1944 season.

ETTA SCHIFFMAN, *Recording Secretary*.

WINSTON-SALEM BIRD CLUB: We continued our talks in the graded schools by a talk Sunday, December 17th, at 2:30 P. M., in the school of our Children's Home Bird Sanctuary. The subject, "Wintering Birds in Our Sanctuary," was given ten minutes elementary presentation, followed by 35 minutes quiz. The faculty and 174 students were present. There was marked evidence of bird study by these eager, inquiring chaps—some of their questions stumped me. After our meeting we noted bird books in the school library, took a short field trip on the campus, and made arrangements for Christmas bird count by the school boys on Monday, December 26.

We were pleased to have six student boys, fourteen to sixteen years old, in the Children's Home Sanctuary. Dr. and Mrs. P. A. Yoder of the Tubercular Sanitarium, S. O. White of Country Club, and Ch. Babcock of Reynolda Sanctuary helped take the Christmas census. Our count on Dec. 26 was disappointingly small because our ace birdman, Jim Stephenson, was prevented from taking his regular count in an area which represents half of our customary territory.

HENRY MAGIE, *Acting Secretary*.

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: At the November 9th meeting of the Hickory Bird Club, held at the home of Mrs. George Fuller, Mrs. George E. Bisanar, Secretary of the Club, gave an interesting and detailed account of the fortieth annual meeting of the National Audubon Society, which she attended in New York recently as a representative of the Hickory Bird Club, an affiliated organization. At this meeting, a free-will offering was collected for the bird sanctuary at the Moore General Hospital at Swannanoa, in accordance with a request which appeared in the September *Chat*.

J. WESTON CLINARD, *Vice President*.

Report of North Carolina Bird Club Sanctuary Work

GRACE ANDERSON, *Chairman, Statesville*

In answer to Miss Clara Hearne's Letter suggesting that November 11 be commemorated by gifts to the Moore General Hospital Bird Sanctuary, at Swannanoa, several local clubs responded. The Piedmont Bird Club, Greensboro, sent \$17.53; Miss Lena Reeves, president of the Blowing Rock Bird Club, sent \$5.00; Hickory Bird Club \$8.00; G. Hamilton Holmes, President, Tryon Bird Club, \$5.00; Lenoir Bird Club, \$10.00; Miss Clara Hearne, 100 Cardinal post cards; Harry T. Davis, 500 Cardinal post cards and leaflets and booklets on poisonous snakes; Mrs. Claudia Hunter, Henderson, \$4.50 for feeder; Statesville Community Club, 25 pounds of bird seed; Massachusetts Audubon Society, a group of bird literature leaflets; and eight window feeders were purchased out of contributions from the local bird clubs. The Statesville Audubon Club added \$3.00 to previous contributions, and Mrs. G. M. Tuten, of this club, gave *Birds of North Carolina* to the Moore General Hospital library. Miss Clara Hearne and Mrs. C. E. Matthews, of Roanoke Rapids, sent a bird house and a bird feeding station.

I believe if every N. C. B. C. member had been with me recently, at the Moore General Hospital, they would want to have a share in contributing to this interest for the patients. Twice during our conversation about the Sanctuary, the Lieutenant in command of the Reconditioning Department remarked gravely, "Yes, it is a great idea. Two years is a weary time for a man in a cast with a broken back. A bird feeding station as a window can make a day a bit shorter." The Sanctuary is just begun. Lacking money to complete it at once, it can be added to for years to come. Its needs are more berries, shrubs, feeders, bird houses and baths, and hundreds of pounds of bird seed. Purchase your gift and send it to me, or send the money and I shall be happy to buy your gift for you.

Mention of the Maiden Bird Sanctuary has already been made in *The Chat* (Sept., 1944, v. 8, p. 52), but the following additional information is supplied by Mrs. D. M. Eaton, of Newton: "The proclamation was issued in June, 1943. Mrs. Frank Carpenter, chairman of Bird Conservation in the Maiden Garden Club, was largely responsible."

A letter recently received from Mrs. J. H. B. Moore, of Greenville, asks for information on the establishment of a bird sanctuary in that city. The N. C. Bird Club president, Miss Hearne, writes that work is being done toward making Pittsboro a sanctuary.

Questions and Answers

G. F. SHEPHERD, JR., and PHILLIPS RUSSELL, Chapel Hill

Don't you think Thanksgiving Day is rather early to permit the legal shooting of quail? Surely not all the birds are mature by then.

Yes, it is early. In the warmer half of the State Bobwhite nests of eggs have been found in October, and the Thanksgiving hunter often brings down birds no bigger than biddies. We would favor moving the date back at least two weeks.

Is it unusual for Starlings to sing? I heard some notes that resembled the Catbird.

It is not at all uncommon for the Starling to be articulate, though whether it may be called singing or not is a different question. They carry on with an endless repertoire of wheezes, whistles, catcalls, guttural gurglings, etc. They have been observed especially on sunny days in winter giving such a program as "song." They may show at times considerable ability at mocking other birds.

Is August 14th and 15th rather late for the Robin and Chipping Sparrow, respectively, to be leaving the nest?

Those dates are apparently not unusual, at least for the latter. A Chipping Sparrow feeding a young one was reported from Charlotte on August 27, of this year and Shaftesbury reports seeing two young Chipping Sparrows leave their nest on September 5, 1944, at Greensboro. Both Chipping Sparrows and Robins are notably prolific and have a succession of two, three, or even four broods a season. Sometimes what would ordinarily be the last brood is destroyed by storm or a predator and the parent birds will start all over again. Observation this season showed that it took

a pair of Cardinals three attempts to get two fledglings raised. Two heavy rainstorms destroyed the first two broods.

I read in the Greensboro Daily News about sound pictures, "The Thrush and Its Relatives," and "Birds of Prey," which were shown at a meeting of the Piedmont Bird Club. Will you be so kind as to let me know where these sound pictures may be secured, if they are available to other local clubs?

Three 16 mm. sound pictures of birds, "Thrushes and Relatives," "Robin Red-breast," and "Birds of Prey," can be rented from the Bureau of Visual Education, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. Each is a single reel, requiring about 12 minutes to show, and the rental is \$1.50 each for one day's use, the user paying the transportation both ways. Also available from the same source is a good silent reel, "How Birds Feed Their Young." These films are available for rental for schools and other responsible groups or individuals. You will have to have a suitable 16 mm. sound projection apparatus to use these pictures. Other 16 mm. bird movies may be rented from the Charlotte Public Library, Charlotte, N. C.; National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York; Department of Education, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, N. Y.

Lenoxville Heron Rookery Again Inhabited

ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, Greensboro

The Lenoxville heron rookery, near Beaufort, N. C., burned over and deserted several years ago has been reinhabited. John Coffey of Raleigh, Tom Zapf of Greensboro, and I visited this rookery July 11, and found about 350 or 400 nests: Snowy Egret, 60; Louisiana Heron and Little Blue Heron, about 150 each; Black-crowned Night Heron, 4; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 8. Number of birds in the rookery was estimated at about double the number of nests, but the Yellow-crowned Night Heron were fully four times as numerous as the Black-crowns. Some nests contained eggs, some small young, and others young about ready to fly. The rookery did not seem to be much disturbed as there were very few broken eggs or dead young on the ground.

In the latter part of June, 1938, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson and H. H. Brimley spent a few days at Beaufort, N. C., and on June 30, were visitors at the Carolina Marine Laboratory of the Woman's College of the U. N. C., where Pearson gave a talk on herons and then took my students and me to visit the famous Lenoxville heron rookery which was located a short distance from our marine laboratory on Taylor's creek, just east of Beaufort. In the summer of 1935 the rookery had been destroyed by fire. This was considered one of the major wildlife tragedies of that year and attracted national attention. Some of the adult birds escaped the fire (*Chat*, v. 1, No. 1, p. 12, March, 1937), and in 1938 a relatively small number were still nesting in the region. At the time of our 1938 visit, Audubon warden Captain David Godwin estimated that there were about 50 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 100 pairs of Louisiana Herons. Little Blue Herons were apparently not as abundant as the Louisianas. At the rookery were a few adult Black-crowned Night Herons

and a few young Night Herons. Nearby we saw four or five Great Blue Herons.

In 1939, this rookery was entirely deserted. A new heron nesting site was noted that summer in groups of trees on two nearly separated small portions of the north end of Phillip Island, a small island in the Morehead channel of the Newport river, a short distance from Morehead City. H. H. Brimley and Pearson visited this new rookery on June 13, 1939, and found it to contain about 200 nests, the majority of these being Louisiana Herons, with about 75 nests of Little Blue Herons, and perhaps 24 of Snowy Egrets. I visited this rookery each summer from 1939 to 1943. The number of herons showed no marked change until 1942 and 1943, when the number of young birds seemed considerably reduced. In 1942, channel dredge boats filled in the marshy places of the island. This apparently subjected the young herons to the depredations of rats, which came from the region of a fish factory on the larger south end of the island. Other pests, including fish crows, took heavy toll of eggs and young birds. Fishermen and other visitors landing at the rookery, by day and by night, frightened the birds so that many eggs and young were knocked from the nests. Dr. Ben Royal of Morehead City, succeeded in having several warning signs erected on the shore, but he was unable to locate any source of funds to provide protection for the herons during their nesting season. On July 3, 1944, Harry Davis and John Coffey, from Raleigh, and I, visited this rookery in Newport river and found it entirely deserted by the herons. Numerous scattered fragments of shells, some punctured shells, and a number of nests apparently of this year, indicated that some herons had nested there early this spring. From fishermen who had visited the island in May, I later found that herons had been fairly numerous at that time.

From Captain Godwin, it was learned that herons had returned this spring in considerable numbers to nest in the Lenoxville region, so with John Coffey, and Tom Zapf of Greensboro, several visits were made to this rookery. Coffey banded several of the young herons. On the morning of July 21, with Dr. A. S. Pearse and some of his students from the Duke Marine Laboratory at Beaufort, I visited the Lenoxville rookery and found less than a dozen nests still occupied. One nest which we were able to examine contained a young Louisiana Heron, and another contained three Snowy Egrets only a few days old. Among the grown birds, we noted on this visit only Snowy Egrets, Louisianas, and Little Blues. Some later visits at sunset, when most of the herons had returned to the roost from feeding, indicate that the July 11 estimate of the number of herons now occupying the Lenoxville rookery is perhaps 25% too low. The marshy ground in this region has been drained for several years so the rookery can be easily approached by cats and other predators. In late July the rookery was threatened by a woods fire that burned in the region for several days.

(September 15, 1944)

Concerning N. C. Game and Inland Fisheries

Groups of hunters and fishermen are urging Governor Gregg Cherry to follow through with his election promise to separate the game and inland fisheries from the conservation department. The game and inland fisheries is the largest of seven divisions of the state conservation department, with some 150 full time employees, besides various deputies, and spends perhaps \$300,000 a year, money collected for the most part from license fees paid by hunters and fishermen. Apparently finding the problem more complicated than he expected, Governor Cherry asked the legislature to appoint a non-partisan committee to investigate and make recommendations. Since the time is short for such reorganization by this assembly, some sort of compromise will perhaps result. It seems reasonable that the appointment of a commissioner of game and inland fisheries and of his chief aides should be on the basis of their training, experience, and proven ability in this work, rather than for payment of political obligations. At present, eight of the fifteen members of the State Board of Conservation are on the game and inland fisheries committee. From the results, many think that both of these groups are too large for efficient action. It has been suggested that the committee for game and inland fisheries be composed of non-partisan members who have practical knowledge and experience regarding fishing and hunting, also that the members should be scattered geographically, and that the committee should have the major voice in the selection of the commissioner of game and inland fisheries, and that the committee with its commissioner should have the major voice in the selection of the workers in the division.

Lack of encouragement in the propagation and protection of game, and lax enforcement of fish and game laws in many counties has resulted in near extermination of game birds and animals, as well as the slaughter of many non-game birds, in some sections. The important reason that would seem to justify the proposed separation of game and inland fisheries is the allegation that the Department of Conservation and Development is not properly performing its duties, and even if this be true, it seems that the proper remedy is to clean up the department rather than to put any of its functions into private hands.

A. D. S.

In Memoriam

Mrs. John L. Yates, for several years a member of the North Carolina Bird Club, died in Baltimore, Md., Sept. 9th, 1944. Interment was at Churchville, Md. Born Katherine Gross, at Harrisburg, Pa., she spent her early days in Baltimore, and was educated in that city. She was married to Dr. John L. Yates, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and lived in Milwaukee many years. In recent years she spent the summers at Chester, Nova Scotia, and the winters in Wilmington, N. C. She endowed a chair at one of the large universities in memory of her husband. She gave an ambulance to the British government for use in the present war. She had a great love of birds, knew many calls, and liked to watch the birds on walks through the forests. She was most kind and most generous, and was greatly beloved by all who knew her.

Field Notes and News

CORRECTION: The warbler nest found last summer at Weaverville, by John Trott, Jr., was not that of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, as stated in the November issue of *The Chat*, but was the nest of the Black-throated Green Warbler.

C. S. BRIMLEY...

ROSSCRAGGON WOOD: On November 14 I saw 2 Tree Sparrows, 2 White-crowned Sparrows and 4 White-throated Sparrows in the same location as in December, 1943, in the gorge up the side of the mountain. Other birds seen the same day were 1 Ruffed Grouse, 1 Flicker, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, some Downies, 6 Titmice, 4 Chickadees, a small flock of Red-breasted Nuthatches feeding in the pines, several White-breasted Nuthatches, a Brown Creeper, 2 Winter Wrens, a Hermit Thrush, 4 Bluebirds, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 1 Gold-crown, 2 each Myrtle and Black and White Warblers, 2 Cardinals and a Song Sparrow, and finally 2 Robins in a field on my way home. MRS. D. W. GRINNELL, Asheville, N. C.

HENDERSON: Last seen were Hummingbird, September 14; Crested Flycatcher, 18th; White-eyed Vireo and Summer Tanager, October 1; the latter unusually late. Overbird, Sept. 2nd; Black and White Warbler, 4th; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Redstart, 5th; Catbird, November 4th, late. Transients noted were Northern Water Thrush, August 30-September 17, a good many; Cape May Warbler, September 26-October 4; Blackpoll Warbler, September 26-October 5; Chestnut-sided Warbler, September 18; Magnolia, 17th. First seen: White-throated Sparrow and Hermit Thrush, October 22; Junco, November 18. JEANETTE S. BACHMAN.

GREENSBORO: Winter visitors, first observations 1944, Mallard (2), Dec. 30 (Christmas count); Gadwall, Dec. 10; Baldpate, Nov. 25; Shoveller, Nov. 25; Redhead Duck, Dec. 16; Ring-necked Duck (20), Nov. 25; Lesser Scaup Duck, Nov. 18; Golden-eye Duck (2), Dec. 30 (Christmas count); Buffle-head, Dec. 19; Ruddy Duck (2), Nov. 5; American Merganser (7), Dec. 30 (Christmas count); Red-breasted Merganser (1, shot), Nov. 18; Fox Sparrow, Nov. 18.

TOM ZAPP.

RALEIGH: The two Crested Cormorants and 9 Whistling Swan listed on the Christmas count (Dec. 31), were also seen on Dec. 17, by Roxie Collie Simpson. Birds seen here in December but not in the Christmas count: Bonaparte's Gull, Dec. 17; Horned Grebe and Herring Gull, Dec. 31. C. S. BRIMLEY.

ROANOKE RAPIDS: Last Yellow-billed Cuckoo, October 10; Catbird, 18th. First Song Sparrow, October 17; flock of Cedar Waxwings, 22nd; first Juncos, 24th; two late Brown Thrashers, November 4. CLARA HEARNE.

RALEIGH: We saw on Lake Johnson and Lake Raleigh, on November 24th, 2 Canada Geese, 75 mallards, 25 Black Ducks, 6 Baldpates, 4 Pintails, 150 Ring-necks, 14 Lesser Scaup, 3 Redheads, 4 Buffleheads, 5 Ruddy Ducks, 10 Hooded Mergansers, and 1 Coot. Also a Great Blue Heron and a number of Cowbirds and Redwings. On November 26, 6 Canada Geese at Lake Myra; and 1 Ruddy, same place, December 3.

ERNEST MITCHELL, JR., JOHN COFFEY, JR., NORMAN McCULLOCH, JR.

TUMBLING CREEK, TENN.: I live up here in this odd terrain, at 2,500 feet elevation on the northwest slope of the Tennessee Bald Mountain, while less than two miles away, where the North Carolina-Tennessee line runs, it is over 5,000 feet, and below me the nearest town, Erwin, 20 miles away, lies 1,000 feet lower.

There has been the usual shifting of the winter and spring birds, the Juncos moving up from my farm to the higher peaks of the Bald about May 1, though many went earlier. The Song Sparrows are building here with me as well as higher up. The first migrant in was, as last year, the (Louisiana) Water Thrush. One has built up in the steep creek bank that runs through my barn-yard and lined the leafy nest with my chicken feathers, adapting right along to civilization's ways. We have never had an English Sparrow or Starling this high up, though a few inhabit Erwin. We have a wealth of Vireos here, including Blue-headed, Warbling, Red-eyed, White-eyed, and Yellow-throated. The dense and wild forest of this region appeals to them. Many warblers come back here to nest. Right now (May 22, 1944) one of the most dominant and plentiful is the Canada Warbler, that sings incessantly along the tumbling streams of the forest. He is vigorous and wild and is not always so easy to approach him, which somewhat accounts for his abundance and his living to sing another day. The Scarlet Tanager is another common nesting bird here. I observed the first Nighthawk here on May 15th, but had already seen it at Erwin on May 4th. The time difference on the Chimney Swift was about the same. The Catbird I have observed over on Big Creek, ten miles from here on April 24th, but he has not got here yet, and neither has the Brown Thrasher. The Hummingbird reached us on May 10th, and the Chat and Acadian Flycatcher on May 12th. By that time the native, all-year-round Phoebe had its nest built and eggs laid.

ERNEST SEEMAN, Route 2, Erwin, Tenn.

PURPLE GRACKLE AT NEW BERN, N. C.: On October 25, I happened to be down in that part of Craven county just across the Neuse River from New Bern, and my attention was attracted by a loud noise of many birds chattering along the highway. In a corn field which lay next to a large woods, I saw one of the most amazing sights that I have ever seen in birdland. The corn stalks were literally alive with purple grackles. They were sitting on the stalks, the ears, and any other support that was handy. Also they overflowed up into the shrubs and trees of the nearby woods. I got within 100 feet of them and they were a beautiful sight, their long sleek, purplish shining bodies brilliant in the early morning sunlight. They did not seem to pay much attention to a human intruder, and remained there for quite some time fluttering here and there in the field and wood, always chattering. I estimated the flock as well over a thousand and such a vivid picture as this remained with me as I drove on down the highway.

DAVID L. WRAY, Raleigh, N. C.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN: When I arrived at my summer home in northern Michigan, the Phoebe's nest always over the kitchen door was so high under the eaves she could hardly squeeze in to her four young. After her second brood had gone, we took it down and carefully separated each nest which had been built one on top of the other. It was a 5-story nest! She had it two stories when we left in 1941 and we did not return for three years. The Robin's nest next the chimney had hers 3 storied for the three years we had been gone. We had taken hers down when we left, as it looked rather disheveled. A rare experience with me was getting acquainted with the beautiful Tree Swallows that nested at the farm where we went daily for milk. They had Purple Martins, Barn Swallows and Tree Swallows all nesting there.

Never had I heard so many Veeries as literally enveloped our whole summer home area, all along the edge of the lake. Morning and evening was a vesper service. But they are hard to find, they are a bird of wet woodland areas. I love to hear them. The Black-capped Chickadee nested in a large birch, and one could rap on the trunk and up they'd come, so tame, much tamer than the Carolina Chickadee.

In all "Plantings for Birds," birches are recommended and during this past summer I saw and heard why. When the seed pods of the birches ripened (I had never noticed them before), there was an influx of literally hundreds of gold-finches. The trees were just a-flutter and you never heard such talking back and forth amongst them. So I know the birches are enjoyed by birds.

ZORA S. JENSEN, Chapel Hill, N. C.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA—SWANQUARTER: The following were seen on Dec. 27: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Canada Goose 13, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull 2, Bonaparte's Gull 5, Mourning Dove 2, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Crow, Carolina Wren, Robin 20, Hermit Thrush 25, Myrtle Warbler 25, Maryland Yellowthroat, Red-wing 2,000 (est.), Cardinal 2, Purple Finch, Towhee, Junco 10, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow 10.

BELHAVEN. Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were noted December 27, along with Surf Scoter and Lesser Scaup. About 2,000 Robins were seen flying near Belhaven.

L. CRAWFORD, TOM ZAPP, R. L. WOLFF.

HICKORY: Areas covered: Approximately 2 miles of hilly lake short wooded with pine, small oaks, mountain laurel; and meadow land adjacent to town residential property and extending to small open fields and pine covered knolls, approximately two miles walk. Dec. 31. Weather: Drizzling rain and foggy all day; very gentle wind from south. One observer with boy member of Junior Bird Club on lake shore. One observer in other territory as described. Each party out two hours (afternoon). White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 20, Carolina Wren 3, Downy Woodpecker 2, White-throated Sparrow 17, Carolina Chickadee 10, Tufted Titmouse 12, Mockingbird 3, Cardinal 20, Mourning Dove 10, Blue Jay 8, Crow 1, Towhee 4, Carolina Junco 30. Total, 15 species, 143 individuals.

J. WESTON CLINARD, LESLIE FOX, MRS. KATHERINE VALLOTTON.

(Hickory Bird Club).

MOUNT OLIVE: Area four miles east of Mount Olive. Woodland 30%, fields 65%, small ponds 5%. Dec. 23. Very cloudy, no wind, temp. 45 to 32 degrees F.; water open. Two observers together. Total hours, 4; on foot 3½ hours, riding ½ hour; total miles, 14, riding and 5 on foot. Black Duck 7, Turkey Vulture 3, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, Marsh Hawk 3, Sparrow Hawk 4, Bob-white 10, Killdeer 2, Mourning Dove 30, Flicker 2, Pileated Woodpecker (flying low overhead, white markings conspicuous.—R. P. H. III.), Phoebe, Blue Jay 2, Crow 5, Carolina Chickadee 3, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird 2, Robin 6, Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, Shrike 4, Starling 35, (set.), English Sparrow 300 (est.), Meadowlark 50 (est.), Cardinal 3, Towhee, Junco 50 (est.), Swamp Sparrow 6, Savannah Sparrow 100 (est.), White-throated Sparrow 5. Total, 28 species, approximately 600 individuals.

ROBERT PEELE HOLMES II, ROBERT PEELE HOLMES III.

ABOUT THE SNAKE HANDBOOK: Harry T. Davis, Director of the North Carolina State Museum, sends the word that they have already distributed some 12,000 copies of the booklet, "Poisonous Snakes of the Eastern United States with First Aid Guide," which was prepared by Davis and C. S. Brimley. A new printing with minor corrections had been received. If you wish one or more copies, get them from your dealer, or send your order, with 10 cents for each copy desired, to North Carolina Bird Club Book Fund, Box 2281, Raleigh, N. C.

With the Editor

WE REGRET that we were unable to get the November *Chat* in the mail early enough to carry an invitation to the Mecklenburg Audubon Club's November 21st meeting at Charlotte. We had a nice notice all set in type, about Bert Harwell's entertainment, movies, and imitations, "Music of the Out-of-Doors," and intended to feature it on the first page.

ROANOKE RAPIDS BIRD CLUB ORGANIZED: On November 11 a local bird club was organized at Roanoke Rapids, with the following officers: President, Mrs. A. O. Pendleton; Vice-president, Mrs. C. E. Matthews; Secretary, Miss Mary Hix; Treasurer, Mrs. R. G. Knight. For a number of years Roanoke Rapids has had an enthusiastic group of members of the N. C. Bird Club, and we are glad that they have organized for more and better work.

N. C. B. C. MEMBERS IN 22 STATES: The total number of members of the North Carolina Bird Club is nearly 600. Most of these are, of course, in North Carolina, but the *Chat* goes to our members in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

N. C. B. C. MEMBERS IN U. S. SERVICE: In the March issue of *The Chat* we hope to publish a fairly complete list of all our members who are or have been in the service of the United States in the present world conflict. We will welcome and appreciate any interesting information you will contribute regarding your service or the activities of your relatives or friends in the service. Please send us your notes NOW before you forget. The deadline is March 1st.

GREENSBORO HAS MOST N. C. B. C. MEMBERS: With 53 members of the N. C. B. C., Greensboro heads the list. Raleigh has 46 N. C. B. C. members, Statesville 34, Henderson 27, and Charlotte and Roanoke Rapids tie with 26 each. Following are the other towns with more than 10 members of the N. C. B. C.: Winston-Salem 21, Boone 20, Tryon 20, Chapel Hill 15, Durham 13, and Lenoir 13. If you wish some new membership application folders, call your local club secretary, or drop a card to Mrs. Edith L. Settan, Membership Chairman N. C. B. C., 1043 West Market Street, Greensboro, N. C.

JACK MINER PASSES: On Nov. 3, after spending several hours on his famous migratory bird sanctuary near Kingsville, Ontario, Jack Miner died from a heart attack. Since 1904 the geese have been stopping in ever increasing thousands, for food and rest at his sanctuary beside Lake Erie. For years he has been clipping little metal notes on the legs of geese, and thousands have been returned, giving Miner data for plotting the migration routes and life cycles of the geese of North America. The Miner sanctuary, which has become a symbol of bird protection, will be continued, for the property has been deeded to the Jack Miner Foundation, and his widow and three sons will carry on the work. The Foundation is free from debt, though funds will be needed to continue the hospitality which Miner extended to migratory birds.

New Members

Here is a list of the new members that have been approved by the executive committee since the last list was published. We are glad to welcome them to the North Carolina Bird Club:

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| Mrs. A. S. Arnold, 1303 Summit, Ave., Greensboro. | Neverson Lewis, 729 Rose St., Rocky Mount. |
| Mrs. R. C. Bradbury, 220 Radcliffe, Charlotte. | Miss Ruby Madry, 538 Vance St., Roanoke Rapids. |
| Mrs. G. S. Bunn, 620 Hamilton Ave., Roanoke Rapids. | Willie Mincker, 122 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids. |
| Mrs. C. W. Cappola, Sr., 1705 Kenilworth, Charlotte. | Miss Mary Overman, 115 Odell Place, Greensboro. |
| John Carr, 106 S. Tremont Drive, Greensboro. | Alexander M. Patterson, 21 Grove St., Concord. |
| Mrs. O. V. Caudill, 154 Gwyn Ave., Elkin. | Miss Helen Grey Patterson, 106 West Depot St., Concord. |
| Mrs. R. D. Cookingham, 69 E. Massachusetts Ave., Southern Pines. | Donald Stone Pike, 1101 Evergreen Ave., Goldsboro. |
| Mrs. Floyd Craft, 214 Piedmont Bldg., Greensboro. | Miss Rosina Pittman, Coltrane Hall, Roanoke Rapids. |
| Mrs. E. C. Edmunds, 258 W. E. Boulevard, Winston-Salem. | Miss Frances H. Russell, 317 McIver St., Greensboro. |
| Paul B. Edmundson, Jr., 1105 Evergreen Ave., Goldsboro. | Mrs. Archie D. Shaftesbury, 315 Tate St., Greensboro. |
| George Heinzerling, Rte. No. 2, Asheville. | George A. Smith, 211 E. Avondale Ave., Greensboro. |
| Miss Mabel Hight, 1327 Sixteenth St., Hickory. | Mrs. Rose M. Summers, 11 Springdale Court, Greensboro. |
| Bob Holmes, Mt. Olive. | J. W. Talley, 710 Monroe St., Roanoke Rapids. |
| Harry Lester Johnson, 1504 Edgedale Road, Greensboro | Mrs. Raymond Taylor, 309 Madison St., Roanoke Rapids. |
| Mrs. Caroline W. Jones, 2029 Vail Ave., Charlotte. | Mrs. D. L. Wheeler, Box 526, Roanoke Rapids. |
| Thomas J. Jones Q. M., 404 Morris St., Durham. | Miss Camilla Louise Wills, Atlantic Christian College, Wilson. |
| C. R. Lamb, 519 N. Mendenhall St., Greensboro. | |

A Hundred New Members Needed

The North Carolina Bird Club needs a hundred new members to maintain our record for membership gains. It is hoped that *all of our members* will co-operate in letting their friends know of the advantages of membership in the N. C. B. C., and encourage the continued growth and activities of the Club. By the splendid co-operation of the members, *The Chat* is maintained in attractive permanent magazine form. Increased membership would make possible a larger, illustrated *Chat*. *Will you help to get at least one more good new member?* Send fees, \$1.00 for active membership, \$5.00 for supporting membership, \$25.00 for contributing membership, or \$100.00 for life membership, to Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer N. C. B. C., 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

OFFICERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

President—Miss CLARA HEARNE, Roanoke Rapids

First Vice-President—Mrs. O. F. JENSEN, Chapel Hill

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BOBBY RUZ

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



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VOL. IX

MARCH, 1945

No. 2

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Greensboro, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*

Woman's College of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C.

DR. C. S. BRIMLEY, *Associate Editor*

N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

One Way of Hiding a Nest

C. S. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

Sometime last summer, Willis Briggs told me he had put a lot of colored streamers in his cherry tree to frighten away the birds that might want to eat the cherries. Whether his scheme worked or not he did not tell me, but he proceeded to say that after the cherries were gone, whether eaten by Mr. Briggs or the birds, he noticed something tugging at one of the streamers, and on looking more closely he saw it was a Wood Thrush, and a little later she flew off with the streamer and attached it to the outside of her nest. Later on, she treated other streamers in the same way till the nest was quite festooned with them. He asked me to tell him why the bird did that. After some profound thought I told him I supposed she did it to make the nest look unlike a nest, so that any creature wanting to eat the eggs or young would pass the nest by without noticing it.

That set me to thinking, and I remembered that in 1943, I noticed a Wood Thrush building a nest. A day or two afterwards I passed by the same place and failed to notice the nest. Remembering the nest I went back to take another look, and at last found the nest, and found I had failed to see it at first because the bird had attached a long piece of dirty white rag to the outside so that when I looked I had seen the rag, and mentally not associating it with the nest had failed to notice the latter.

Why may not that be the reason for the snake-skin in a Crested Flycatcher's nest. Intruders see the snake skin and not associating it with a nest, look no further. And may it not also be the reason why birds often use cotton, newspaper scraps, and other seemingly incongruous material. Just simply to make the nest look unlike a nest.

With the Colors

We have endeavored to get together a fairly complete list of all the members of the North Carolina Bird Club who are now or have been in the service of the forces of the United States during the present world conflict. We will welcome and appreciate further information regarding these men and women. Send us any interesting notes regarding them or regarding those whose names are not in this list.

CAPT. W. A. ANGWIN, (M.C.), U.S.N. (Ret.), Naval Convalescent Hospital, Kenilworth Park, Asheville, N. C. Captain Angwin, who has been in command of the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital at Asheville since January, 1944, has contributed some interesting field notes to *The Chat*, as well as an article, *U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital Wild Bird Sanctuary*, which appeared in the September, 1944, issue.

WILLIAM F. ALSTON. Home address, 216 Lexington Ave., Pittman, N. J.

WILLIAM LEE (Bill) ANDERSON, JR. Flight Officer, Bombardier-Navigator,

U. S. Army Air Corps, Tucson, Ariz. Bill is secretary, and a co-founder of the Winston-Salem Bird Club.

TOMMY ARMSTRONG. Home address, 1600 24th St., Parkersburg, W. Va.

JOSEPH D. BIGGS. Home address, Washington, N. C., where he was among other things, Director of the famous "Bughouse Laboratory."

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN J. BOHN. Recently joined the N. C. Bird Club from Lenoir, N. C. He expects to be retired from military service at the end of February.

SECOND LIEUT. RALPH W. BRIMLEY, at present with U. S. Army Ordnance, with an office at the "Pentagon" at Washington, D. C., though a good part of his time is spent here and there on inspection trips. He took basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and officer's training at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Was principal of the Curry School of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and also treasurer of the N. C. B. C. when he entered the service. Home address, 11 Springdale Court, Greensboro.

LIEUT. (j.g.) THORNTON BROOKS, U. S. Navy. Home address, Greensboro, N. C.

LIEUT. COMMANDER THURMOND CHATHAM. Home address, Elkin.

DR. COIT M. COKER. Home address, Chapel Hill, N. C.

STAFF SGT. EDWARD T. CONE, 32528641, Hq. Dist., A.P.O. 678, care Postmaster, New York, N. Y. Part of his time spent overseas has been spent in Egypt. Home address, 1030 Summit Ave., Greensboro.

CPL. WILLIAM M. CRAVEN, 149th A. A. C. S. Sqd., A. A. F., A.P.O. No. 502, care Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif., He received some of his military training at Camp Pickett, Va. Home address, 1710 Park Drive, Raleigh. His mother writes that he occasionally has some wonderful bird studying in New Caledonia, and is most anxious not to miss a single copy of *The Chat*.

CAPT. W. R. CRAWFORD, Co. F, 65th Inf., Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico. Home address, 311 E. Main St., Washington, N. C.

FIRST LIEUT. E. H. DRIVER, formerly at the C. W. S. Replacement Center, Training Center, Edgewood Arsenal, Md. Please send us a note if you know his present address.

LIEUT. (j.g.) E. V. FLOYD, who was with the U. S. Naval Reserve during 1944, is back at his old job as senior biologist and supervisor of education for the Division of Game and Inland Fisheries of the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development. Home address, 1200 Westover Terrace, Greensboro.

LIEUT. MAYNARD S. JOHNSON, H-V (S) U. S. N. R., N. O. B. Group 10, Navy No. 1504, care F. P. O., San Francisco, Calif. Formerly in charge of the Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Home address, New Holland, N. C. Lieut. Johnson is working on the problem of rat control which is complicated by large numbers of nesting sea birds. He is not allowed to tell any species of birds or plants, but from his mention of new birds arriving, we suspect that he is seeing many interesting things.

CPL. JOE JONES, 34466198, Hq. H. D. C. B., Ft. Monroe, Va. Home address, Chapel Hill, N. C. Has been in the Coast Artillery since 1942; took his basic training at Ft. Monroe. He is a charter member of the N. C. Bird Club, and has some interesting observations on Bald Eagles in this issue of *The Chat*. (See *Field Notes and News*.)

THOMAS J. JONES, Q. M. Home address, 404 Morris St., Durham, N. C. In 1943 he enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve, and was assigned to active duty in the U. S. Merchant Marine. His last communication to *The Chat* was from Corsica. He is a member of the Duke-Durham Bird Club, and wrote an interesting article, *Land Birds on the Sea*, which appeared in the November, 1944, issue of *The Chat*.

PVT. N. W. KATZ, 36896442, 109th General Hospital, Ft. Bragg, N. C.

PFC. GEORGE KENT, 36180177, A. S. F. T. C., Camp Ellis, Ill.

JOHN R. McLAUGHLIN is home again, at 249 Race St., Statesville, after service in the U. S. Army.

MISS HELEN MYERS. Home address, 125 Vance St., Lenoir. From her mother, Mrs. E. Myers, we learn that Miss Myers, who is with the Red Cross in New Guinea, recently had a rest in Australia, but is back in New Guinea, where she is working hard but is enjoying the sight of new birds, flowers, and fruits and vegetables, and, also, the natives.

LIEUT. H. T. (Thomas) ODUM, U. S. Army. Home address, Chapel Hill, N. C. Our last note from him came from the Maxton, N. C., Air Base.

CAPT. MARK TAYLOR ORR was with a U. S. Night Fighter Squadron at Kissimmee, Florida. We do not have his present address.

CAPT. JOHN J. SIGWALD. Home address, care W. R. Clanton, route 4, Savannah, Ga.

JAMES L. STEPHENS, JR., U. S. Navy. Home address, Lumberton, N. C. His father writes that he is in the South Pacific.

PVT. WILLIAM M. THOMAS, 241 O. R. D. Am. Co., Ft. Sill, Okla.

MAJOR ROBERT H. WITHERINGTON, O-394492, Hq. 8th Inf., A. P. O. No. 4, care Postmaster, New York, N. Y. Home address, 715 Pilotview, Winston-Salem 5, N. C.

News of the Local Clubs

LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB: The club met for its regular meeting Tuesday evening, February 6, with Miss Fries Hall with a good attendance of members. President F. H. May was in charge and routine business was transacted. A copy of *Birds of the Southwest Pacific* was autographed to be sent to Miss Helen Myers, a former member, who is doing Red Cross work in the New Guinea area. Reports of the January bird census were made by several groups, and it is hoped that by another year a complete census by a full membership may be made. The combined report was filed for future comparisons.

Brigadier General John J. Bohn and Mrs. Bohn were present as guests, and the General told about some boyhood experiences with birds in his home state of Minnesota. He also told of some birds he had seen in his travels in the military service. General Bohn expects to be retired from military service on February 28, 1945.

A very interesting study of the Warblers was continued at this meeting under the direction of Mrs. C. S. Warren, program chairman. A study of the Sparrows is to be taken up at the March meeting, and members were asked to be on the lookout for the Chipping Sparrow which will be due the last of the month. Members are asked to keep a diary of birds and the dates on which seen.

The local club is giving a state bird club membership to the Caldwell County Library. Mrs. W. D. Tuttle gave her subscription as a new member of the local club. At the March meeting, a campaign is to be put on for new members for the local club, and Miss May Puett, member of the membership committee of the N. C. Bird Club, is soliciting memberships for the state bird club.

MAY PUETT, Secretary.

WINSTON-SALEM BIRD CLUB: At the meeting of the "Linga Longa" Garden Club, on January 18, we showed our moving picture, "Birds in Our Garden," twelve species, in colors, taken during the nesting season, May-July. Henry Magie spoke on "Our Wintering Birds," followed by a round table discussion.

On January 19, Grade 2R at North Elementary School presented the assembly program, based on the study of "Winter Birds in Winston-Salem," which the group

had just completed. Paintings which they had made of the birds were shown by the pupils. Sixteen members of the Junior Audubon Club showed bird houses that they had made and discussed their plans for helping to preserve bird life. George Steinbach told about the life of Audubon and Peggy Brown announced the program. James Stephenson, president of the Winston-Salem Bird Club, made a brief talk and showed lantern slides of various birds, each slide accompanied by a recorded call of that particular bird.

Extending our educational program into the county, we were invited by the Pomona Grange to feature at their February meeting our colored movie, "Birds in Our Garden," with Henry Magie as guest speaker on the subject, "What Do Our Forsyth County Birds Eat?"

Not official, but pleasing in war time is the aggregate of our two bird counts, December 26 and 31, two separate districts, twelve miles apart, total 45 species, with 1,466 individual birds.

HENRY MAGIE, Acting Secretary.

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: Several new bird song records were played during the program given Thursday evening, February 8, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ivey. Vice-President J. W. Clinard, who presided in the absence of the president, Dr. H. D. Althouse, gave a talk on "Bird Migration." During the round table discussion, centered particularly on feeding stations, several members reported very interesting observations. Mrs. Katharine Vallotton told of birds seen on Long Island on a recent visit. Mrs. M. I. Reynolds was present as a new member.

This club and community were saddened by the loss of John Shuford Rowe, who died February 24, of a heart attack in the garden of his home here in Hickory. An honor graduate of Davidson college, he represented the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical firm for more than 40 years, maintaining headquarters at Raleigh for many years. He was one of Hickory Bird Club's most beloved members. We will miss "Brother John" very much.

J. W. CLINARD, *Vice-President*.

RALEIGH BIRD CLUB: The Raleigh Bird Club met Tuesday evening, January 16, in the Board Room of the Agricultural Building. The program included two talks, "The 1944 Bird Census—Some Comparative Studies in Numbers, Observers, and Habitat," by D. L. Wray, and "The Recovery and Present Status of Migratory Wildfowl in North America," by Harry T. Davis.

FRANK B. MEACHAM, Secretary.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB: The Piedmont Bird Club of Greensboro can proudly report that its activity membership has now passed the one hundred mark and new members are being added at each meeting. Interesting monthly meetings and efforts of the club in having the city of Greensboro officially declared a bird sanctuary are some of the activities which are attracting new members and keeping the interest of the old at high pitch. The January meeting was particularly interesting. George Smith, one of our newer members, reported unique and distinctive experiences in various localities he has visited, particularly Southern California, Pymatuning Lake in western Pennsylvania, and Cape May, New Jersey, the latter famous for its migrating hordes of warblers and other small birds. Following his recital, several other members recalled interesting observations of birds made by them.

Currently, our club is engaged in a very pleasant pastime which will give us valuable data regarding the movement of birds. Under this plan each member makes a record of the date and hour each new bird is seen. This information is phoned to the field trip chairman who tabulates the information. There is keen competitive interest to see who can be the first to observe and report the arrival of a new species for the year.

The members who braved the rainy weather to attend the February 22 meeting were well repaid. Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury gave a brief discussion of hawks, the club's special study for the year. His remarks were illustrated with drawings and mounted

specimens, one of the specimens being a beautiful Sparrow Hawk recently mounted by one of our own members, Thomas L. Zapf. Dr. Wesley Taylor gave a talk on attracting birds, with special emphasis on Purple Martins. That he is an authority on same cannot be doubted since he had 50 pairs nesting last year at his home at Justamere Farm, near Greensboro. At this meeting Mrs. Chas. M. Swart, program chairman, presented each member with one of the Piedmont Bird Club's yearbooks. The yearbooks, which were designed and composed by Mrs. Geo. Smith, Miss Etta Schiffman, and Mrs. Nina Tyner, have a hand colored Sparrow Hawk on the cover and make very attractive souvenirs of the club.

MRS. F. H. CRAFT, Recording Secretary.

BOONE BIRD CLUB: During the fall the club held some interesting meetings. On September 17, E. L. Kelly, from DeLand, Florida, met with the club in the Appalachian theatre and showed several reels of colored moving pictures taken in the Hawaiian Islands. Since there are no native birds in these islands, he could show only the migratory birds. The attendance was about 250.

The club met with Mrs. M. W. Burwell on December 1, to formulate plans for the high school ornithology essay contest. Our Junior Nature Club has embraced the entire Seventh Grade with their teacher, Mrs. D. C. Thompson, as leader.

January 22 finds us still snowbound up here. Our meetings are not very satisfactory during the winter months. Our club is sponsoring the ornithology essay contest in our four high schools, and we hope that all our schools will enter the local and state-wide contests.

Dr. R. C. Busted gave a fine talk on "Migrating Birds," at our last meeting. Dr. Busted is Field Director of Appalachian State Teachers' College, and he surely knows his birds. Hope the N. C. Bird Club will ask him to talk some time on his Ravens, which he found on Grandfather Mountain.

MRS. M. W. BURWELL, Vice-President.

Greensboro Now a Bird Sanctuary

A long standing dream of Greensboro's Piedmont Bird Club has at last become a reality. A petition was presented to the Greensboro City Council November 21, by the Club's Sanctuary Committee, composed of R. D. Douglas, Mrs. Chas. M. Swart, Mrs. Nina Tyner, and Archie D. Shaftesbury. A delegation of other Piedmont Bird Club members and a considerable number of representatives from sixteen other cooperating civic organizations attended the presentation of this petition. The petition was approved by the City Council, an ordinance was drawn in proper legal form, and this ordinance was adopted by the Council on December 5, 1944, establishing the city of Greensboro and the Greensboro Country Park each as a bird sanctuary. The two sanctuaries include a total area of well over eighteen square miles, with a population of over 73,000 persons. The club has set March 26 for an open meeting at the Aycock Auditorium of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, in Greensboro, at which time Mayor W. H. Sullivan will publicly declare Greensboro a bird sanctuary, and Cleveland P. Grant, nationally known professional bird photographer will present a lecture accompanied by natural colored moving pictures of wild birds.

Biltmore Forest Bird Sanctuary

ESTHER R. SWOPE, Rosscraggon, Skyland, N. C.

Biltmore Forest, N. C., is now a Bird Sanctuary. The township of Biltmore Forest, which lies about two miles south of Asheville, is a beautifully wooded residential district, where, since its founding some twenty years ago, birds of all sorts have found a happy and luxurious home. In the winter of 1943-44 it was suggested that it be proclaimed formally a Bird Sanctuary. The Town Council being willing, the French Broad River Garden Club, of Asheville and Biltmore Forest, undertook its establishment as one of its conservation projects.

We had not anticipated that it would require four months to have four simple signs made. It was hoped to have signs with cut letters, but this was impossible. Even tombstone cutters were appealed to in vain.

Finally, four signs were evolved, stained brown, with the following lettering: BILTMORE FOREST BIRD SANCTUARY—Please help us protect our birds—French Broad River Garden Club—1944. It was impossible to purchase suitable locust posts in this land of forests, and four fine posts were donated by the Biltmore Forest Fire and Sanitation Department, and four signs now stand proudly at four strategic points in the Forest.

To date no public feeding stations have been installed, as Biltmore Forest is a bird-loving community and scarcely a house, with its well laid-out grounds, but boasts one or more feeding stands and watering places and many berry-bearing shrubs, so the birds fare very well.

Biltmore Forest is also, alas, a cat-minded community, and letters are being sent to all householders urging the necessity of belling or otherwise controlling the cat population and thus securing the sanctity of our Bird Sanctuary.

Fostering a Young Chickadee

ELIZABETH BARNHILL CLARKSON, Charlotte

The night we returned from the May N. C. Bird Club meeting at Raleigh I took in a baby Chickadee to raise. Seven were hatched in one of my bird boxes on April 26, and one at a time was removed from the nest by some predator, either a Grackle, Starling or Blue Jay, I think but am not sure as I would hear the parents fussing and there would be nothing around when I went to investigate, and when I would look in the box another baby would be missing. When we returned from Raleigh only one was left so we brought him to raise and will let him out when the time comes. We took him in at 6 p. m., Sunday, May 14, and he ate

15 meal-worms, small size between then and 10 p. m. On Monday he ate 64 meal-worms about three-fourths of an inch long by one tenth of an inch wide (I tried to pick them of nearly as uniform size as possible), and his last meal was at 10 p. m. a large house-fly. The 64 meal-worms weighed 4.5 grams and he weighed 6.3 grams on Tuesday, May 16, at 4:45 p. m. I weighed him for about a week and it was fun to watch his progress and his reaction to different birds and noises.

I am also raising a sparrow by necessity, which I think is either a Chipping or a Field Sparrow. When brought to me on May 20, it was just a bedraggled baby bird with speckled breast and no tail, but now its tail is about two-thirds grown and it can fly beautifully. It still wants its water from a medicine dropper and its meal-worms handed to it. It has neither the light bill of the Field nor the black bill of the Chipping Sparrow and its head markings have not yet developed enough to tell. I have had both Chipping and Field Sparrows bring their babies to my feet to be fed cheese, but away from their parents at an early age, I'm not sure because none of the books give detailed enough analysis of nestling plumages. However, I feel like it is a Field Sparrow. Anyway I will soon know and in the meantime it is fun to watch him and compare him with D. D. the Chickadee whose God-mother, by the way, is Sarah Nooe. By the time D. D. was a month old he had learned to swing on something by one foot and hold a meal-worm in the other to eat, bit by bit. His toes are almost as prehensile as a cat's and he can swing on a window shade cord with perfect ease while Chi Chi (my little niece's name for the sparrow), has the most interesting "ground" feet with beautiful long slender toes as straight as can be. D. D. has the most interesting songs already. I want Sarah Nooe to spend a week-end with me and hear them before I let him go because no one in the world who hadn't been with a Chickadee night and day would believe me. I'm sure I've been as intimately associated with Chickadees as the average person. They nest in my boxes year after year. I watch them feed their young. They come to my bedroom window-sill every day of the year to get sunflower seed, peanut-butter and cracked nuts and I've never heard one "warble" before. It is the only way to express his song, but I must have someone to hear him outside the family, just for proof. One day we fed him 37 times between 7:10 a. m. and 9:00 p. m. and I kept a record of just what he ate at each feeding at the time of the feeding.

JIMMY McCULLOCH, 10-year-old member of the N. C. B. C. who lives at 3132 Sussex Road, Raleigh, got into print with a note under "Bird Notes From Good Observers," in the January issue of *News on the Wing*, the Audubon Junior Club paper, a quarterly which is read by thousands of boys and girls in the schools of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Early Bird Prints and Bird Lore

B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, Charlotte

(Rhett Chamberlain is a Charlestonian now living in Charlotte. Since the age of nine he has been a devotee of the Charleston Museum, where his twin brother is now curator. He was a licensed bird bander at the age of thirteen. Overseas with the A. E. F. in 1917, he returned to finish his formal education at Rensselaer Polytechnic. He has kept up his museum activities wherever he happened to be; at present is on the board of the Mint Museum in Charlotte. He takes splendid bird pictures, some of which have been published. He is an active member of the Mecklenburg Audubon Club at Charlotte. We expect to publish in an early issue of *The Chat* his observations and some of his photographs of the first Bachman Sparrow nest recorded for Charlotte.—Editor.)

An exhibit of Audubon and pre-Audubon bird prints at the Charlotte Mint Museum of Art during April afforded an unusual opportunity to bird students of the community to post themselves on bird lore of the 18th and 19th centuries. At the invitation of the Director of the Museum, the Mecklenburg Audubon Club held the April meeting in the main gallery of the museum and heard an informal talk on the prints and stories behind the prints by the writer of this article. Since much of the material used is from sources not readily available to most of us, it is believed that the following notes will be interesting to *Chat* readers.

The prints exhibited are a part of a large and valuable collection owned by Mr. Walter C. Barnwell of Atlanta, Georgia. They consisted largely of work done in Europe, notably by Albin, Edwards, Nozeman, Hayes, Lord, and Selby, between 1730 and 1845. Work done in America was represented by Catesby, Wilson, and Audubon, during the same period.

Of the European prints, the work of Nozeman is outstanding. Beginning in 1770, he published the "Birds of Holland" in five large volumes. "Apparently the first comprehensive work . . ." on the birds of that country. Nozeman was an able artist and an able scientist. His careful work brings out at once his eye for composition and regard for accuracy. To show nests or eggs or the details of a head or claw, he drew inserts that appear as little sheets overlapping the main drawing. Audubon occasionally tucked in an egg here or there to satisfy the scientist in him. Nozeman's black and white prints are particularly attractive. After his death in 1789, his work was completed by Houttuyn and Sepp.

The work of Eleazar Albin, who preceded Nozeman, attracts attention more because of age than artistry. He published (1731-1738) a Natural History of Birds with 306 colored plates. In 1737 his History of English Song Birds appeared. In these he was assisted by a daughter, Elizabeth, whom he taught to draw and paint "after the life." Albin worked at a time when private aviaries were popular among the wealthy people of England and the Continent. In his text we find: "I had this Bird (the Black Bull-Finch) from Sir Robert Aaby. It was very tame

and good natured and much valued by Sir Robert and my Lady." An interesting side-light is found in his text describing plate 70, a "Swallow Goldfinch" and a "Canarie Goldfinch." Of the former: "This bird I was credibly informed, by the Gentleman who had it, was bred between a Cock Swallow and hen Goldfinch; it had the note and actions of the Swallow. I had it of Nathaniel Oldham Esquire." Of the canary-goldfinch he wrote: "These Birds are bred between a Cock Gold-Finch taken out of the nest and bred up tame, and a hen Canary Bird, and are called Mule Birds; they never couple or breed with other Birds." Apparently the Gentry had no pity on the poor ornithologist already confounded by Nature's own products. Albin also wrote and illustrated works on insects and fish.

In 1743 George Edwards, English naturalist, wrote his *Natural History of Birds*. His plates are colorful and unusually pleasing. There is an unfortunate sameness about his perches. A large number of Edwards' birds came from foreign countries. The increasing transportation facilities probably played a part. The aviary business must have been booming. Hard billed birds survived the long ocean passage on seeds (White's *Natural History of Selborne* p. 95). Later editions of Edwards' *History* appeared in 1747 and in 1751. In 1758 his *Gleanings of Natural History* included quadrupeds, birds, fishes, and insects. In 1771, at the age of 78, Edwards supervised the third edition of Mark Catesby's work. Many of Edwards' prints are signed and dated.

The work of Thomas Lord and William Hayes appeared around 1780. Lord's "entire new system of Ornithology" with all 111 of its colored plates failed to revolutionize anything. In fact it drew fire from many sides. America's Eliott Coues, safely separated by 100 years, called him a "snob". Coues, you may recall was a surgeon in the U. S. Army, and as a young man was stationed at Columbia, S. C. He wrote a *Key to North American Birds*. Incidentally, Ray, in his foreword to Wayne's *Birds of South Carolina* (1910), says that Coues in his youth was not so good himself. So there. As for William Hayes, he headed a large family of painters. Twenty-one children are recorded. He referred to seven of them as his pupils. Martha, Matilda, and Emily had their names spelled out. Hayes' *Birds* appeared between 1771 and 1780. A *Natural History of British Birds* was published in 1775, and *Portraits of Rare and Curious Birds* in 1794. A number of examples of the work of Lord and Hayes were exhibited.

Prideau John Selby's *Illustration of British Ornithology*, (vol. 1, Land Birds) was first printed in 1821. (Vol. 2, Water Birds appeared twelve years later along with a reprint of vol. 1.) Crowded groupings of small birds on single plates seen on so many of the Selby prints suggests the influence of our Wilson whose first volume appeared thirteen years earlier. Readers of English bird lore are thrilled to see on Selby's plates

the Wheat ear and the Stone Chat that frequented Selborne. So much for the European illustrators.

The first real naturalist to draw birds in the field in this country was Mark Catesby, an Englishman. Extended visits (Virginia, 1712-1719; Carolina, Florida and the Bahamas, 1722-1726), furnished subjects for two volumes that appeared first in 1731. There have been four editions of that work. Catesby did not draw well. He knew that himself and apologized for faulty perspective. He could have mentioned more. But Catesby was a truly great naturalist and his determination to reach his goal is shown by the fact that, upon returning to England and being faced with prohibitive engraving costs, he, with the aid of a friend taught himself to etch his own plates. In America he journeyed tirelessly "searching after, collecting and describing the Animals and Plants" that he came upon. He wrote ". . . as there is a greater Variety of the feather'd Kind than of any other Animals, (at least to be come at) and as they excell in the Beauty of their Colours, . . . I was induced chiefly (so far as I could) to compleat an Account of them . . ." And with regard to naming the birds that he saw: "Very few of the Birds having names assigned to them in the country, except some which had Indian names; I have called them after European Birds of the same Genus, with an additional Epithet to distinguish them." An Indian guide carried his paint boxes and collecting kits. This was doubtless a wise precaution. At that time the frontier of the white settlement along the South Carolina coast was marked by a fort at St. Stephens, less than fifty miles inland, and there were frequent raids by the Indians. (See Simms' History of South Carolina p. 96: ". . . they prowled about the settlements perpetually, and within twenty miles of Charlestown, with impunity.") Catesby's prints show a script monogram MC rather than a signature. Selby used his name and initials on his prints, sometimes twice on the same plate.

Alexander Wilson the "melancholy poet-naturalist" did not start to draw until he was 36 years old. That was in 1802. He was an apprentice weaver at the age of 13 in his native town of Paisley, Scotland. Weaving was the family trade. His sense for color and composition might well have been aroused by the blend and pattern of the cloth that he helped weave. He came to America as a young man, and by one of those tricks of Fate established himself near the home of William Bartram the great American naturalist whose travels had attracted so much attention in 1779. Wilson, in writing of Bartram called him "my guide, philosopher, and friend." It was Bartram who influenced Wilson to study and to draw birds. But it was Wilson's daring that made him undertake his great American Ornithology. It was, it seems, Wilson's pride that shut out the friendship of Audubon. Wilson called upon Audubon in 1810. Wilson was 44. "Under his arm" he carried the first two volumes of his work, and he sought patronage. Audubon was 25. Up to that moment neither man knew the other painted. Before the visit ended both secretly knew

that Audubon was the master painter. Audubon did not subscribe to Wilson's books and he was not forgiven for that. Of the Wilson prints exhibited at the Mint Museum, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker was particularly interesting. The bird actually figured was captured by Wilson near Wilmington, N. C. He records leaving it free in his hotel room and returning after a brief absence to find that the bird was well on its way out through the wall; having already removed the plaster and laths. Upon being tied to a mahogany table the ivory-bill "wrecked his whole vengeance" upon it and "almost entirely ruined" it before being caught. Another Wilson print of particular interest in the exhibit was the plate of the White-headed (Bald) Eagle. Wilson was drawing that plate in Philadelphia when he was visited by Audubon. Of that visit Audubon wrote: "He received me with civility . . ." but "spoke not of birds or drawings. Feeling as I was forced to do, that my company was not agreeable, I parted from him; and after that I never saw him again." In 1813 Wilson died and his friend George Ord, a recognized ornithologist himself, carried on the publication of the last two of the set of nine volumes that made American Ornithology.

One hundred years ago Audubon's Birds appeared. No illustrations of natural history had been attempted on so grand a scale. Recognition was immediate. But his Birds and his Quadrupeds are too well known to be discussed here. Excellent reprints of the Birds are available to all of us. April 30, 1944.

Some Notes on Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne"

H. H. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

PART III

(Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne* wasn't intended to be a book. It consists of letters written to friends, and yet it is one of the greatest classics in nature writing in the English language. It is the story of White's ramblings about his birthplace and home Selborne, in Hampshire, about forty miles southwest of London. Translated into many languages and printed in over a hundred different editions in the past 150 years, this classic has been read by millions of people. A nature library is not complete without a copy of at least one of the editions.—Editor.)

Here is an entomological note: "Many species of birds have their peculiar lice, but the *hirundines* alone seems to be annoyed with dipterous insects, which infest every species, and are so large, in proportion to themselves, that they must be extremely irksome and injurious to them. These are the *Hippoboscae hirundinis*, with narrow subulated wings, abundant in every nest."

To designate river islands, White consistently used the old English "Ait" familiarized to modern Americans by its frequent use in cross-word puzzles.

Here are a couple of unusual nesting sites for the barn-swallow: "A certain swallow built for two years on the handles of a pair of garden shears that were stuck up against the boards of an outhouse, and therefore must have had her nest spoiled whenever that implement was wanted; and what is stranger still another bird of the same species built its nest on the wings and body of an owl that happened by accident to hang dead and dry from the rafters of a barn. The owl, with the nest on its wings and the eggs in the nest, was brought as a curiosity worthy of the most elegant private museum in Great Britain. The owner, struck with the oddity of the sight, furnished the bringer with a large shell, or conch, desiring him to fit it just where the owl hung: the person did as he was ordered, and the following year, a pair, probably the same pair, built their nest in the conch, and laid their eggs. The owl and the conch make a strangely grotesque appearance, and not the least curious specimens of that wonderful collection of art and nature."

"There is," says White, "an instinct in animals taken the least out of its way, an undistinguishing, limited faculty; and blind to every circumstance that does not immediately respect self-preservation, or lead at once to the propagation or support of the species." Rather a queer definition of instinct! He cites an instance of the sand-martin's departure from its regular habit of nesting in holes excavated in the sides of sand-pits or other steep banks of an earthy consistency as follows: "The only instance I ever remember where this species haunts any building is at the town of Bishop's Waltham, where the sand-martins nestle and breed in the scaffold holds in the back wall of William of Wychenham's stables." This is followed by a description of the usual nesting habits of the same bird. "The bank-martin terebrates a round and regular hole in the sand or earth which is serpentine, horizontal, and about two feet deep. At the inner end of this burrow does the bird deposit, in a good degree of safety, her rude nest, consisting of fine grasses and feathers, mostly goose feathers, very inartificially laid together." He says, further: "The following circumstance should by no means be smothered, that these birds do not make use of their caverns by way of hibernacula, as might be expected; since banks so perforated have been dug out with care during the winter, when nothing was found but empty nests."

Of course, in White's day, the swifts were classified along with the martins, being birds of somewhat similar shapes and habits. He also uses the name "black martin" for swift, and refers to it as the largest of the British *hirundines*. In England, this bird uses the interior of church steeples, towers, and the upper interior of any unoccupied building with

available openings, for nesting sites, but no mention is made of the use of chimneys by the swifts, though one instance is given of crevices in the wall of a deep chalkpit being so used.

"This *hirundo*," he says, "invariably lays two eggs at a time . . . whereas the other species lay at each brood from four to six." Our American species of swift lays from four to six eggs.

He describes a rather foggy day on which the air was filled with strips of spider webs, that extended over miles of country, and on the hill-tops as well as in the valleys. The eyes of his hunting dogs became so clogged-up with these webs that he had to call off his hunt. He speaks of this fall as a "meteor," and I think that he uses this word in speaking of a heavy fall of snow.

Local superstition: As late as 1751, within twenty miles of London, an incident occurred that he briefly describes: "Two superannuated wretches, crazed with age and overwhelmed with infirmities, on a supposition of witchcraft; and by trying experiments, drowned them in a horse-pond."

"At the fourth corner of the Plestor, an area near the church, there stood, about twenty years ago, a very old, grotesque hollow pollard ash, which for ages had been looked on with no small veneration as a shrew-ash. Now a shrew-ash is an ash whose twigs or branches, when gently applied to the limbs of cattle, will immediately relieve the pains which a beast suffers from the running of a shrew-mouse over the part affected, for it is supposed that a shrew-mouse is of so baneful and deleterious a nature, that whenever it creeps over a beast, be it horse, or cow, or sheep, the animal is afflicted with cruel anguish, and threatened with the loss of the limb. Against this accident, to which they were continually liable, our provident forefathers always kept a shrew-ash at hand, which when once medicated, would maintain its virtues forever. A shrew-ash was made thus: Into the body of the tree a deep hole was bored with an auger, and a poor devoted shrew-mouse was thrust in alive, and plugged in, no doubt with several quaint incantations long since forgotten."

Field Notes and News

BATHING BIRDS: The day was cold and ice covered the bird bath on my terrace on December 13, 1944. At noon I broke the ice in the pool and bird bath and filled the latter with water. Soon I was attracted by the chattering of birds and looking toward the terrace I was amazed at the number of kinds gathered around it for a noon-day drink of water, no less than twelve in all: one Cardinal, two Mockingbirds, four Golden-crowned Kinglets, two Brown Creepers, four Tufted Tits, several each of White-throated and English Sparrows, two each of Chickadees and Pine Warblers, several Juncos, a Carolina Wren, and some Blue Jays. The Brown Creepers were running up the pillar on which the bath stood and sipping water as

it dripped down its sides. The Kinglets flew to the edge of the bath and upon the water hose near the house.

D. L. WRAY, Raleigh, N. C.

BOONE: During the spring, summer, and fall of 1944 (to Nov. 22), we observed 42 different species of birds, including a couple of Mocking birds that were about town during May. Mrs. W. G. Hartzog saw one during the summer, and the mockers may have nested near there. At any rate one or two were still around on Nov. 22. It is something unusual to see Mocking birds in this vicinity. A Pheasant was found shot early in November.

MRS. W. H. SMITH.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER AT WINSTON-SALEM: On Jan. 3, 4, and 5, I observed a male Red-cockaded Woodpecker eating suet at my feeder. The bird was in good sunlight, about 5 feet from where I sat with colored plate number 25 of "Birds of North Carolina" handy.

HENRY MAGIE.

RUFFED GROUSE ON GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN: On January 26, about 2:00 P. M., I accidentally ran over a Ruffed Grouse, while I was driving along Blue Ridge Parkway on Grandfather Mountain, at an elevation of 4,150 feet. Rounding a curve, I came upon this adult female grouse apparently sunning herself in the middle of the highway. She did not take wing until the car was above her. Had she not flown, she would have been safe.

WALLACE J. MAJURE, *Roanoke, Va.*

BOONE: Staying snowbound on January 21, at my sitting room window I enjoy my pet Cardinal, "State," and his mate; also Wrens, Titmice, Song Sparrows, English Sparrows, and Juncos. Up to December 20 we had a lone Mockingbird, late in the evenings, and Mrs. W. G. Hartzog still sees one. Dr. R. C. Busteed saw seven Bluebirds January 11, which is unusual for Boone. I observed a flock of Robins in a swampy woods recently.

MRS. M. W. BURWELL.

BALD EAGLES ALONG CHESAPEAKE BAY: One of the greatest pleasures I have had in the Army has been the opportunity to observe Bald Eagles that are not uncommon at places along the Chesapeake. At Little Creek I have seen as many as five or six eagles foraging together on a sand spit. There is an abandoned eagle's nest at Little Creek in a pine tree inside the military reservation. At some time previous to my arrival at Little Creek, steel spikes had been driven into the trunk of the tree at intervals suitable for climbing, which may account for the nest being no longer occupied. Evidently somebody either robbed the nest or at least intruded too much to suit the eagles. Or perhaps they abandoned the nesting site because of military activity.

It is amazing how easily a bird as large as the Bald Eagle can pass unnoticed. Since I was intensely interested in them and constantly kept sharp lookout for them, I used to see one or more at Little Creek practically every day, but I doubt if there was another soldier there who dreamed that there were eagles present. Almost invariably, when I pointed out an eagle to some of my fellow workers I was laughed to scorn. They always insisted that eagles were to be met with only in mountains and that my Little Creek eagles, which assuredly kept their distance, were buzzards or some other large birds. The numerous buzzards did help the eagles retain their anonymity. The only time I was ever able to convince an unbeliever was when a mature Bald Eagle got close enough for him to get a clear look at its white head and tail.

February 1, 1945.

CPL. JOE JONES.

CARDINAL POST CARDS AVAILABLE: The State Museum has had 10,000 Cardinal post cards printed, and these cards may be secured, in lots of 100, for one cent each by writing to Harry T. Davis, Director, State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

With the Editor

JANUARY ISSUE OF *THE CHAT* EXHAUSTED—Due to the unexpectedly large number of new members, the January issue of the *The Chat* is entirely exhausted. We have been unable to furnish copies for all the new members. If you were going to send your copy to the paper salvage, how about mailing it to the editor of *The Chat*, Greensboro, N. C., and we will pass it along to a new member who would like to see it. We could use at least fifty copies.

COLORED SLIDES FOR CLUBS AND TEACHERS: Four sets of colored slides, "Birds of North Carolina," "Water Birds of North Carolina," "Forests of North Carolina," and "Flowers of North Carolina," are available for loan to clubs and teachers, and may be secured by writing to Murray F. Buell, Chairman, High School Committee of the North Carolina Academy of Science, State College, Raleigh, N. C. Transportation charges are paid by the borrower. These slides are accompanied by a manuscript. They are standard $3\frac{1}{4} \times 4$ inches, and the Academy has a projector to loan to clubs that do not have one available.

NO SPRING MEETING FOR 1945: The spring meeting of the N. C. Bird Club will not be held this year, it was decided by the executive board at a meeting Saturday, February 12, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Jensen, at Chapel Hill. This decision was in accord with the request of War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes that private organizations cancel conventions of more than 50 persons, unless they are in the interest of war. At the fall meeting of the N. C. B. C., held October 30, 1942, the club adopted a recommendation of the executive committee that the officers continue to the next spring meeting in case difficulties in travel or other factors made it impossible to hold the spring meeting. A spring meeting of the N. C. B. C. was not held in 1943, and the present officers were elected May 13, 1944. Since no other provision is made in the constitution, the executive committee decided that the present officers would continue to serve until the next spring meeting of the club. Officers present, besides Mrs. O. F. Jensen, who is first vice-president, included Miss Clara Hearne, president; Miss Nancy Eliason, secretary; Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer; Archie D. Shaftesbury, editor of *The Chat*; and Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, member-at-large of the executive committee. Chairman of the membership committee, Mrs. Edith Settan, also attended the meeting, which lasted from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., with time out for a grand lunch served by Mrs. Jensen, and also with a considerable number of times out to observe from Mrs. Jensen's window the many birds (17 species during the day) which came to the various feeding stations and banding traps.

We haven't space to list all that was discussed during the day, but the meeting was very beneficial and stimulating. One important bit of work was the adoption of Dr. C. H. Bostian's report for the committee on Junior Membership, and the formulation of plans to promote work with boys and girls through local Audubon Junior Clubs. An executive meeting is planned for May 12, and Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, Raleigh, will be hostess. One of the things to be discussed at this meeting is a proposal to have a delegate from each local club meet with the executive committee in the early autumn. It is believed that in the necessary absence of general spring and fall meetings of the N. C. Bird Club, this plan might be valuable. What do the local clubs think of this proposed plan?

WHERE DO CHIMNEY SWIFTS GO IN WINTER? During the past ten years, many thousands of numbered aluminum bands have been placed on the legs of Chimney Swifts in the United States and Canada. One of the hopes of the banders was, of course, that they would discover the winter home of these birds—practically the last of the unknowns. Bird-banders in Tennessee have placed 109,000 bands on

Chimney Swifts within Tennessee—more than one-third of the Swifts that have been banded at all stations. So the Tennessee Ornithological Society was justifiably elated to announce in the September issue of their journal, *The Migrant*, that they had received notice from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service that eight Swifts that had been banded in Memphis and Nashville were reported killed by natives on the Yanayaco river in northeastern Peru. Five other banded birds, thirteen in all were reported in the group, one each from Opelika, Ala., Macon, Ga., Lake Forest, Ill., New Haven, Conn., and Kingston, Ontario. Although specimen records during the past few years traced the Swifts as far as Panama, and one observer in Manaus, Brazil (about a thousand miles east of the locality of the Peruvian records), reported seeing over a tall chimney, in late March, 1943, thousands of Swifts resembling North American Chimney Swifts, yet this is the first actual record of this species in its winter home in South America.

THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN MISSOURI—by Charles W. Schwartz, is an attractive book just issued by the Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri, Jefferson City, Missouri. Large size, 9x12 inches, and mostly pictures, the book includes 85 splendid full page photo reproductions, several black and white sketches, and one full page color reproduction of an original Kodachrome picture, all printed on fine pebbled paper, and bound in rich brown fabricoid. Price, \$5.00. In the foreword, J. N. ("Ding") Darling says: ". . . the prairie chicken, now little more than a tradition to the oncoming generation, was companion to the trackless prairie, the virgin forests, and the covered wagon when the white man first opened up this rich wilderness of natural resources. And like the vanishing forests and wasted soils, the prairie chicken has taken its beating and retreated as commercial exploitation advanced. . . . That the prairie chicken is now to be seen at all is one of the miracles of nature's persistence and a tribute to those who believe that by wise management and understanding we can retain both the beauties of nature and the comforts of civilization."

TO SCHOOL TEACHERS: With the desire of developing more widespread interest in natural history and better appreciation and use of our national resources, the N. C. Bird Club calls the attention of school teachers to the Audubon Junior Clubs, which last year included some 276,000 youths of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The program is on a national or international scale, and so must be supplemented by material of state and local interest, but teachers of elementary, and junior and senior high schools will find it very valuable. Ten or more students with an adult advisor constitutes an Audubon Junior Club, and the annual dues are 10c a member. Proper application must be made to the National Audubon Society. Each member receives: (1) A membership tag; (2) Six illustrated leaflets describing bird habits throughout the year (available in two editions, *Junior* with large type, and *Senior* with smaller type and more material); (3) Six color plates of birds; and (4) Six outline drawings of birds to color. In addition, the club gets *News on the Wing*, the Audubon Junior Club paper, published four times a year, which contains information on bird houses, feeders, bird calendars, field trips, and club meeting and assembly programs, and discusses the protection and conservation of American wildlife. Clubs renewing from year to year receive different material each year. Teachers who are interested should mail a card or letter to the National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y., with a request for applications and for the folder, "Let's Form An Audubon Junior Club." And how about passing along this information to other interested teachers in your town.

New Members

Here is a *partial* list of the new members who have been approved since January 5, 1945. Every effort has been made to get the addresses correct and the names spelled correctly. If there are errors, please let us know. We are glad to welcome these members to the N. C. Bird Club. If you know of one or more people you would recommend to membership, send in their names to Mrs. Edith L. Settan, Membership Chairman, N. C. B. C., 1043 West Market St., Greensboro, N. C., or, better still, send in their dollar (or \$5.00 for Sustaining Membership), together with their names and correct address, to Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer, N. C. B. C., 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro.

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| Mrs. A. T. Adams, Boone. | Miss Minnie Gwaltney, 1017 11th Ave., Hickory. |
| Mrs. Blake D. Applewhite, Box 1233, Wilmington. | F. Y. Hanner, Box 362, Sanford |
| Miss May S. Blankenship, 320 Mills St., Spartanburg, S. C. | Miss Ellen Holt, Tryon. |
| Brig. Gen. John J. Bohn, Lenoir. | Miss Bertha Celestie Honeycutt, Burnsville. |
| Miss Sallie Bostick, 613 Park Ave., Greensboro. | A. J. Hutchins, Canton. |
| Miss Bennie Brafford, 121 W. Park Ave., Charlotte 3. | Mrs. J. Frank Key, Buena Vista, Va. |
| Miss Sadie Brandon, Barium Springs. | Mrs. John King, 140 Murdock Ave., Asheville. |
| W. L. Brown, U. S. National Museum, Washington 25, D. C. | Mrs. J. E. Lancaster, Box 1187, New Bern. |
| Dr. R. C. Busteed, Stansberry Circle, Boone. | Miss Ann McKay Lefler, River View, Norwood. |
| Mrs. Curtis A. Bynum, Macon Avenue, Asheville. | H. A. Ligon, Box 530, Spartanburg, S. C. |
| Camp Butner Library, Camp Butner, N.C. | G. Mebane Long, 2238 Westminster Pl., Charlotte 4. |
| Dr. Eva Campbell, Guilford College. | Mrs. W. J. Long, Garysburg. |
| Dr. W. C. Carr, 106 S. Tremont Drive, Greensboro. | Mrs. James McKee, 114 S. Dawson St., Raleigh. |
| Dave Clarke, Lenoir. | Miss Mary E. Makepeace, 230 Butler Ave., Providence 6, R. I. |
| Mrs. Dora Cloninger, Lenoir. | Miss Julia D. Mann, 306 Chestnut St., Asheville. |
| Paul A. Coffey, Boone. | Z. G. Mann, Whitakers. |
| E. D. Cook, Boone. | Mrs. Edward W. Marble, Winter St., West Farmington, Maine. |
| Miss Elizabeth R. Coppoch, 624 E. Main St., Spartanburg, S. C. | Mrs. St. Julien R. Marshall, Seashore State Park, Box 31, Virginia Beach, Va. |
| Mrs. J. B. Cramner, 313 Market St., Wilmington. | Frank B. Meacham, State Museum, Raleigh. |
| Mrs. J. R. Cunningham, Davidson. | H. L. Medford, 830 Cornwallis Road, Greensboro. |
| James A. Daniel, Box 475, Mocksville. | Mrs. Rufus C. Meigs, 2130 Beverly Drive, Charlotte 4. |
| Dr. Charlotte Dawley, 504 S. Mendenhall St., Greensboro. | Reva Mitchell, Supt. State Home & Ind. School for Girls, Samarcand Manor, Eagle Springs. |
| Mrs. G. C. Dunn, 3018 Sunset Drive, Charlotte 3. | Mrs. J. H. B. Moore, Greenville. |
| Mrs. Lilly Edwards, Henderson. | Mrs. L. J. Moore, St. Pauls. |
| J. A. Eshelman, 905 Johnson St., High Point. | Dr. Thomas R. Nichols, Morganton. |
| Mrs. John W. Everett, 2605 University Drive, Durham. | Miss Lillie Norket, Davis Hospital, Statesville. |
| Mrs. Mary Swindell Fulcher, Edward. | |
| Mrs. C. P. Gibson, Windom. | |
| Mrs. Mark Grillin, 29 Hilltop Road, Biltmore. | |

LOCAL CLUBS AND THEIR OFFICERS

- Arden, Rosscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Major V. M. Shell, Arden; V-P—Mrs. H. B. Swope, Skyland; S-T—H. B. Swope, Skyland
- Elowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club: P—Miss Lena Reeves; V-P—Mrs. Joe Winkler
- Boone Bird Club: P—Mrs. Mack Luttrell; V-P—Mrs. W. M. Burwell and Mr. Norton; S-T—Miss Cora Jeffcoat.
- Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Dr. Maurice Whittinghill; V-P—Mrs. C. H. Pegg; S—Mrs. O. F. Jensen; T—Mrs. R. B. Sharpe.
- Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—B. Rhett Chamberlain, 1320 Biltmore Drive; V. P.—Sarah Nooe; S—Elizabeth Harris, 209 Altondale St., Charlotte; T—Clara Burt; Publicity Chairman—Mrs. G. C. Potter, 2111 Malvern Rd., Charlotte 4
- Concord, Rex Brasher Bird Club.
- Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha B. Hopkins, 506 Buchanan Road; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.
- Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Edith Settan, 1043 W. Market St.; V-P—Mrs. George W. Perrett and Miss Sarah Lesley; Rec. S—Mrs. Floyd Hugh Craft; Cor. S—Miss Maude Adams, 317½ Tate St., Apt. 3; T—J. E. Maxey.
- Guilford College, T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club: P—Elizabeth Hare; V-P—J. G. Gilbert; S-T—Margery Pickett.
- Henderson Bird Club: P—Mrs. G. E. Rose; V-P—Mrs. E. B. Flanagan; S-T—Mrs. W. B. Daniel
- Hickory Bird Club: P—Dr. H. A. Althouse; V-P—Weston Clinard; S-T—Mrs. George E. Bisanar
- Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Fred H. May, 211 Beall St.; V-P—Thos. Parks; S—Miss May Puett, 512 West Harper St.
- Raleigh Bird Club: P—J. H. Slaughter, 525 N. Bloodworth St.; V-P—Mrs. A. J. Skaale; S-T—F. B. Meacham
- Roanoke Rapids Bird Club: P—Mrs. A. O. Pendleton, R. 1, Bolling Rd.; V-P—Mrs. C. E. Matthews; S—Miss Mary Hix, 536 Hamilton St.; T—Mrs. R. G. Knight
- Salisbury Bird Club.
- Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T. & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring
- Statesville Audubon Club: P—Mrs. J. Howard Smith; V-P—Miss Grace Anderson; S—Mrs. Stephen Blankenship; T—Mrs. Earl Davis
- Tryon Bird Club: P—G. H. Holmes; S-T—Katherine D. Hamilton
- Washington, Bughouse Laboratory: P—Sally Bogart; S-T—Elizabeth Shelton; Director, Joe Biggs
- Winston-Salem Bird Club: P—James Stephenson; V-P—William H. Chance; S—Bill Anderson; Asst. S—Henry Magie, 528 R. J. R. Bldg., Winston-Salem 1

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

BOBBY RUIZ



Winghaven

WILD BIRD SANCTUARY

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MAY, 1945

No. 3

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Greensboro, N. C.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*

Woman's College of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C.

DR. C. S. BRIMLEY, *Associate Editor*

N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

Night Birds

PHILLIPS RUSSELL, Chapel Hill

Occasionally a poet or other writer refers, for the sake of eerie or mysterious effect, to "some night bird" or his song. Rarely or never does he name the said night bird.

In North Carolina there are several species of birds that sound some kind of note at night. Purely nocturnal birds like the Whip-poor-will, Chuck-wills-widow, and Owls are of course well known. But strange to say, the common bird that carries the word "night" in his title does not often sound his call after dark.

The one bird that gives forth his full repertoire as gloriously by night as well as by day is the Mockingbird. Moonlit nights of April and May, and sometimes the harvest moon nights of early September, are very exciting to the mocker, and whenever he is feeling fit, he will sing for an hour with no other accompaniment than a sailing moon overhead. By the way, the European nightingale, on the three occasions when I was able hear him distinctly, seemed not to be in the same class with the mocker, either in variety or richness of melody.

Another bird to whom the full moon is stimulating is the Chat. On silver nights he will wake up not only once but twice and thrice, and give his list of toots, whistles, rasps, and chirps. I have heard him do very good imitations of the jay and Catbird. He is also a clown and eccentric, tumbling in midair and doing acrobatic tricks while keeping up his song. I have never been able to learn whether he also does tricks while singing at night.

And again, the Field Sparrow is a musician often moved to give his solitary tinkles and chirps when the moon is high and grand. His is at all times a delightful song but when in the stillness of a summer night he suddenly sounds his lay, it is exquisite. He rarely keeps up his nocturnal ditty more than a minute or two.

At the opposite end of the musical scale is the hoarse grunt and croak of the night-wading herons. The Great Blue seems to be subject to nightmares or sudden alarms on quiet, densely dark nights, for at such times he is given to outbreaks of croakings that may result from terror or just resentment. The little Green Heron also rouses itself at night with grunts and flappings, but his note of course has no such sonorous quality as the Great Blue's.

The Bob-white is a decorous daytime bird that I have occasionally heard calling plaintively from the fields while the night is still dark. This call is the searching one often used by the female in summoning her

young. The Killdeer, too, often adds its lonesome cry to the sounds of the night.

And here is a closing note about the Barred Owl, the common "hoot" owl often heard close to houses. At times he is excited by human shouts and will sometimes answer the cries of children. But I have never heard him sound the "to-whit, to-who" of the books. To me his chief note is simply "hoo-ah" or "hoo-aw."

N. C. Bird Club Members With U. S. Forces

Here is further information to be added to the list of N. C. Bird Club members in the United States forces, published in the last issue of *The Chat*. Please send us any interesting notes regarding those whose names we have mentioned or regarding those whose names we have not listed.

Previous mention was made in these pages (March 1944) regarding the supreme sacrifice of Captain Henry Churchill Bragaw, of Orton Plantation, who was killed in action in Italy on June 22, 1944, after having been previously wounded and hospitalized, and after having received battlefield citation and promotion for heroic action in the bloody battle of San Pietro, Italy.

Lt. (jg) Coit M. Coker, U. S. N. R., Training Division, N. A. G. S., Jacksonville, Fla. Home address, Chapel Hill, N. C. Was in Normandy invasion in charge of Navy shore fire control, and was wounded but not out of action; received Purple Heart and Silver Cross. He is now teaching air gunnery in the Naval Air Gunnery Station at Jacksonville, Fla.

PFC. GEORGE KENT, 36180177, sends us his new address: Med. Det. 967, A.A.A. Gun. Bn., A.P.O. 72, care Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif. He was in the Philippines when he last wrote to *The Chat*. He says: "I have traveled quite a bit and have seen many strange and beautiful birds, which I was unable to identify because I had nothing to identify them with. I have sent for a book of this region if one is available and hope that I can then know the names of some of them."

D. F.(ranklin) Milan, Jr., A. C., U. S. Navy. Present address, 401 Vanderbilt Hall, Boston 15, Mass.; formerly at Chapel Hill, N. C.

Lt. (jg) T. L. QUAY H-V (S), U. S. N. R., Malar. U. 107, care Com. 7th Fleet, F. P. O., San Francisco, Calif. Quay entered the navy as an ensign in December, 1942. At that time he was Associate Editor of *The Chat*, and was working toward his Ph.D. at State College, Raleigh. Prior to entering the navy he had worked for the U. S. Public Health Service, in malaria control. Several months ago he was in New Guinea. His wife and young son are at Van Buren, Arkansas.

Capt. Henry (A.) Rankin, Jr. Present address, 5111 Watson St., N. W., Washington, D. C. Capt. Rankin, whose home is at 228 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville, N. C., is a charter and sustaining member of the N. C. Bird Club.

TYPE SPECIMENS OF N. C. BIRDS: Has a list of the birds whose type forms came from North Carolina ever been published? A reader of *The Chat* is interested in working up such a list and would appreciate any information regarding birds named from type forms taken in North Carolina.

News of the Local Clubs

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: An entertaining and educative variation in the program took place at the April meeting of the Hickory Bird Club, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moses in Forest Park. The innovation consisted of a lively competition between the members present in the form of questions and answers. The questions presented characteristics peculiar to certain species of birds. Mrs. Katherine Vallotton won first prize, a suet bird feeder, for naming correctly the most birds. Second prize, a packet of post cards bearing a picture of a pair of Cardinals, went to Mrs. Eugene Ivey. The unique questions were arranged by Miss Mabel Hight and presented to the club by J. W. Warlick.

Mrs. George Fuller read a letter from Mrs. O. M. Royster, a former Hickory resident, now a member of the Asheville Bird Club. The letter was written to Mrs. Geo. Bisanar and told of some of the recent activities of the Asheville Club.

Mrs. Vallotton submitted an original bird poem for the book which is being written in collaboration by the members.

The round table discussion concerned the arrivals of various migrant species, and the current nest building activities among the birds. J. W. Clinard presided in the absence of President Harry D. Althouse, and Mrs. Geo. Fuller acted as secretary in the absence of Mrs. Geo. E. Bisanar.

J. W. CLINARD, Vice-President.

LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB: In conjunction with the bird essay contest, sponsored by the State Bird Club, the Lenoir Audubon Club offered a first prize of \$5.00 and a second prize, a copy of *Birds of North Carolina*, was offered by Fred H. May, president of the local club, for the best essays on birds written by a student in the city schools. Six of these essays were written and handed in, and were read before the bird club at its regular March meeting, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Tuesday evening, March 6. The winning essay, "Black Capped Chickadee," was written by Tommy Winborne, who will receive the \$5.00 prize. The second prize will go to Eleanor White on her essay, "Our Carolina Singers." In order to encourage the other four contestants, in the study of birds, and reward them for their efforts, each will be given a membership in the State Bird Club.

A very interesting and entertaining introduction to the Sparrow family was given at the March meeting, by the program chairman, and study of this group of birds will be continued at the April meeting. So much time was given over to the reading of essays and the program, that very little business was considered. There was a good attendance of members, and two new members, Mrs. James Griggs and Mrs. W. J. Dula, were enrolled in the local and State Bird Clubs. Several visitors were present.

A round table discussion of birds is always a part of the program of every meeting, and more and more interest is being manifested in birds.

MAY PUETT, Secretary.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB: The March meeting of the Piedmont Bird Club was a mass meeting held in the Aycock Auditorium of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, in Greensboro. City Attorney Herman Wilson, acting on behalf of Mayor W. H. Sullivan, who was ill, officially declared the city of Greensboro a Bird Sanctuary. The proclamation also included Greensboro Country Park area, which is adjacent to the Guilford Battleground National Park. The club presented Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland P. Grant, nationally known naturalists, with some of their colored moving pictures of birds, mountain sheep, foxes and other wildlife.

Their program, which was the highlight of the club's activities for the year, was enthusiastically received by the large crowd which attended. Out of town guests from nearby towns were present and Chapel Hill and Charlotte were represented. Prior to the lecture the Executive Board entertained Mr. and Mrs. Grant at a dinner, and had as guests, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Jensen, of Chapel Hill.

At the April meeting, held on the evening of the 19th in the science building at Woman's College, Miss Inez Coldwell spoke on "The What, Why, and Whence of Birds," discussing the origin, structure, and classification of birds, and their relation to the other vertebrates. Mrs. R. D. Douglas spoke on her personal experiences with red-shouldered hawks, which represent a species of the group of birds being studied for the year.

Field trips are being conducted regularly, organized by Field Trip Chairman, Miss Etta Schiffman, and led by various members of the club. A special breakfast trip was held Saturday morning, April 25, at the R. D. Douglas home on the Battleground road. On May 5, the club will spend the day taking their annual spring count. Junior trips for selected students from the city schools have been conducted weekly since March 4.

MRS. FLOYD HUGH CRAFT, Recording Secretary.

MECKLENBURG AUDUBON CLUB: At the March meeting, which was held on the 20th at the Charlotte Public Library, E. Burnham Chamberlain, Curator of Zoology at the Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C., spoke on "Bird Colonies Along the South Carolina Coast," illustrating his talk with several reels of moving pictures. One of these pictures showed the banding of large numbers of herons. A colored film of anhingas (water-turkeys) and ibises at their nesting sites was particularly interesting. The members voted \$5.00 again this year toward the support of the International Committee for Bird Protection.

At the April meeting, held on the evening of the 17th at the Mint Museum, Cpl. R. F. Peterson, a New Jersey member of several scientific societies, gave an excellent talk on hawks and owls and their relation to conservation. Corporal Peterson used original drawings and slides to illustrate the differences between the accipiters and buteos found in Mecklenburg County, and also presented the migration routes of hawks. In discussing the owls of this region, he described the method of making scientific examinations of the disgorged food pellets, and showed sketches of skulls of various species of small rodents, pointing out the teeth arrangements that serve as identification clues in determining the food of owls.

Following Corporal Peterson's talk, the members enjoyed seeing the collection of original bird painting now on display in the Mint Museum galleries. These include work by such well known ornithologists as Rex Brasher, Roger Tory Peterson, Athos Menaboni, Edward Dingle, and Robert Bruce Horsfall. Of interest also were the parrots and night herons of Alberta Eno, and several pictures by the local artist, Ralph Ray.

Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson was elected Permanent Chairman of a Field Notes Committee to record the observations of its members, and plans to print suitable cards which will be distributed to reliable observers, to be filled out at convenient periods and brought to the meetings or mailed to Mrs. Clarkson who will set up a file.

B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, President.

WINSTON-SALEM BIRD CLUB: On March 12, we judged 100 nesting boxes submitted by pupils in our public schools, white and colored, in the 11th annual contest sponsored by the Winston-Salem Council of Garden Clubs, which also gives the

prizes. Marked improvement was shown this year in suitability and workmanship, and in adherence to plans and specifications of our School Recreational Department. A wide variety of designs ranged from the rustic log type to the two-story, sixteen-family Purple Martin apartment house.

Another showing of "Attracting Our Birds," our colored movie, and a talk on our birds was given at the Boy Scout Rally the second week of March.

Two of our Eagle Scouts in service have sent lists of birds observed and identified by name by natives, one from the Fiji Islands, in the South Pacific, and the other list from Assam Province, in India.

WM. S. ROTHROCK, Secretary.

STATESVILLE AUDUBON CLUB: The Club has had several outstanding meetings this spring, the first being with Mrs. Bonner Knox. The highlight of this meeting was Miss Sarah Nooe's delightful resume of a most interesting talk on Chinese birds recently given by Rev. Andrew Allison, a returned Presbyterian missionary. Miss Nooe also showed the beautiful crayon sketches that Rev. Allison had used to illustrate his lecture. Another meeting was held at the home of Grace and Ina Anderson, at which time Miss Grace Anderson gave a talk on birds, showing the colored slides from the N. C. State Museum and playing bird song records to illustrate each bird.

Further plans of the club, according to the president, Mrs. J. Howard Smith, include a continuation of the study of North Carolina birds and special programs by members on each one's favorite bird.

Miss Grace Anderson and Miss Nancy Eliason have given bird tests to a number of Boy Scouts, and, recently, all Statesville boys and girls who were interested were invited to go with Miss Anderson on a morning field trip. During this spring, Miss Anderson has given bird talks to over 1,000 school children, using bird song records and colored slides, the latter through the courtesy of the state museum at Raleigh. At Woodleaf School, near Cleveland, N. C., Miss Jeanette Current, with the help of Miss Anderson, has organized a Junior Audubon club with 244 members, and Woodleaf school plans to add to its planting program and make the school grounds a bird sanctuary. Miss Anderson has also made talks before several grades of the Statesville schools, at Mitchell College, in Statesville, and at the Barium Springs orphanage.

CHARLOTTE PAYNE BLANKENSHIP, Secretary.

BOONE BIRD CLUB: We have organized adult and junior clubs at Cane Creek, and they plan to work together with Mrs. Virginia Dare Strothers as president and leader. Mrs. J. T. C. Wright is leader of a new Junior Club at Blowing Rock. We are hoping to add Boone to the list of junior clubs very soon. Our high school ornithology essay contest is good. We submit the essays to the judges May 8, and expect to have an entry to send to Raleigh for the state-wide contest.

MRS. W. MICAHAH BURWELL, Vice-President.

Bird Club Organized at Asheville

The Asheville Bird Club was organized at a meeting held Tuesday evening, April 24, at the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital, at Kenilworth, Asheville. The new club was organized for the study of bird protection and for the education of persons interested in birds, and plans to

cooperate with state and federal authorities to bring about the enforcement of protective laws now in effect. The officers include: President, Capt. W. A. Angwin, U. S. N., commanding officer of the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital, Kenilworth; vice-president, Arthur Brimley; secretary, Mrs. M. F. Meredith; treasurer, Mrs. Francis E. Field.

Tentative meeting dates have been set for the third Tuesday of each month, and the May meeting will be held at the Naval Hospital. Interested persons may call the secretary, Mrs. Meredith, telephone 2969-J, in Asheville.

For a number of years, Asheville has had a considerable number of active members in the N. C. State Bird Club, and we are glad that they have formed a local organization, which means more effective and more enjoyable work. Best wishes to the Asheville Bird Club.

Greenville Made a Bird Sanctuary

On March 8, at the request of a committee from the Greenville Garden Club, the Board of Aldermen, by unanimous action, declared the city a Municipal Bird Sanctuary. Sanctuary signs were furnished and erected by the N. C. Highway Department, have been placed on each highway leading into Greenville. The schools are having programs on the highways at these signs. The colored schools are taking part in all of these activities and are having one of the programs. The Public Library has had several displays on birds, bird pictures, and books. Miss Christine Wilton, nature teacher at East Carolina Teachers College, is taking groups from the Garden Club and other interested persons on walks to study and recognize by sight and by sound the various birds.

The Garden Club gave and installed a bird bath in Cherry Hill cemetery and another on the grounds of the Public Library. At its request, the Boy Scouts has promised a bird bath for the city park. Club members and many other citizens have built feeding stations and made watering places for birds. Principals of the public schools have been asked to provide watering places for birds on school grounds, and to teach love for birds and the necessity for their protection. This has been generously agreed to, and bird projects of several kinds are being developed in various grades of the schools. The high school botany class has been asked to start a Wildlife Museum, using a hut in the public park which the Playground Committee was happy to have used for such a project. We are now working with the Superintendent of Grounds at E. C. T. C., in an attempt to get extra watering places on the college campus and in the woods.

The teacher in Botany and Outdoor Life at E. C. T. C. has ordered colored slides of North Carolina birds, to be used in the public program

sponsored by the Club. Records of bird songs and calls will also be played at a meeting for the public.

MRS. J. H. B. MOORE, Pres., Greenville Garden Club.

MRS. J. VANCE PERKINS, Chairman,

Greenville School Participation in Bird Protection.

Report of Sanctuary Chairman

The Henderson Bird Club gave the complete set of four Audubon Bird Charts to the Moore General Hospital. Mrs. Anne Bosworth Greene, of Woodstock, Vermont, and Tryon, N. C., gave a check for one hundred dollars, with the request: "Apply the check to whatever is needed most to extend and perfect the sanctuary at the Moore General Hospital at Swannanoa." Mrs. Robert Sessoms sent \$1.50 for the Mimosa Garden Club, Asheville, to purchase bird seed for the sanctuary. A contribution of \$14.30 for the Moore General, has been made by school children at your chairman's talks on birds. A bird house and some bird feed have been received from an unknown sender in Greensboro.

The Red Cross and the Reconditioning Service at the Moore General Hospital have moved some of the sanctuary's furnishings to the hospital's reconditioning center at Sand Hill.

Mrs. J. H. B. Moore, president of the Greenville Garden Club, called on the N. C. B. C. Sanctuary chairman for assistance in making Greenville a town sanctuary, and for ideas to carry out a city wide program for interest and protection of birds. With Mrs. Moore's fine leadership, the Garden Club made an outstanding accomplishment. Mrs. Edith Settan, president of Greensboro's Piedmont Bird Club, writes that their club had a public meeting on March 26, at which time City Attorney Herman Wilson, representing Mayor W. H. Sullivan, who was ill, made the official announcement of the Greensboro City Sanctuary, and Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland P. Grant presented an evening's program with some of their wonderful colored moving pictures of birds and other wildlife. District engineers of the N. C. State Highway Commission have set attractive town sanctuary signs at all entrances to Greenville and Greensboro.

Asheville is asking about a bird club and sanctuary. At the Woodleaf School, in Rowan County, 244 children joined the school bird club, and are contemplating the establishment of a sanctuary.

GRACE ANDERSON, N. C. B. C. Sanctuary Chairman.

Bachman's Sparrow Nest Found at Charlotte

B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, Charlotte

(Bachman's Sparrow or Southern Pine Finch, the more northerly variety of the Pine-woods Sparrow, though apparently fairly common in parts of North Carolina, is little known, not merely because it is a rather inconspicuous and ground loving sparrow, but probably more because it is rather exclusive in habit, seeking a secluded, unplowed field with clumped small trees, bushes, and tall grass. Though its domed nest is built on the ground, it sings from low trees, and its varied, rather beautiful song is enough like that of the Pine-woods Sparrow, that listening a few times to the song of the Pine-woods Sparrow as recorded by the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University on its record No. 3A, may help you locate the Bachman's Sparrow in your locality this spring.—*Editor.*)

My friend Dr. E. E. Brown has suggested that I pass on to *The Chat* these notes and photographs concerning the nesting of Bachman's Sparrow in Charlotte. I believe that Bachman's Sparrow breeds commonly enough in this section but it is not often recorded because it is difficult to flush. I have looked for nests during the past three years and succeeded in finding this one in 1944 only through the expedient of showing some youngsters what to look for. The previous summer I got 'warm' enough to have an old bird circle me at a distance of eight or ten feet, 'gliding' along the ground. I must have been within a few yards of the nest at most, and although I knew what to look for, having found and photographed a nest at Charleston, S. C., years ago, my experience did not help me find that one.

On June 4, 1944, my young friend Lonnie Ledbetter telephoned to tell me that he had found the covered nest and white eggs for which I had told him to look. Since the location was within three blocks of my house I was not long in joining him. The bird left the nest when we were within a few feet of it and ran along the ground. I did not see it again that day. The nest, made entirely of grass, was placed at the base of a small clump of broom grass, and opened to the north. There were four white eggs. They did not appear to be glossy, but in the existing light I could not be sure. (Wayne says that some are "as glossy as some woodpeckers' eggs.")

On June 7, I photographed the nest and a general view of the locality. I used a mirror to illuminate the eggs. A visit at 6:00 p. m. on June 12, showed the eggs not yet hatched. On June 13, I returned to the nest and found that all four of the eggs had hatched. On June 17, I took a picture of the young, or two of them, since the other two were missing. At six o'clock on the evening of the 18th, the nest was empty. As these last two were only five days old, it seems likely that none of the brood survived. However, the two that were photographed were so large that the nest was quite full and I wondered at the time how any more might get in it. I searched the surrounding area pretty well without finding a trace of them.



Nesting site of Bachman's Sparrow, Charlotte, N. C., June 7, 1944.
Nest was located at foot of small pines just left of the center.



Nest and Eggs of Bachman's Sparrow, Charlotte, N. C., June 7, 1944.



Deserted nest, with grass slightly cleared for photographing.

(Photographs by B. Rhett Chamberlain.)

It is difficult to think of a young sparrow leaving its nest so early, though Bachman's Sparrow certainly doesn't depend upon its wings a great deal for protection.

This nest was located in an old broom grass field pretty well spotted with young pines about head high. The grass clump in which the nest was built was within a few feet of a wagon road. The field is within a hundred yards of a paved street inside of the city limits of Charlotte.

In South Carolina, Bachman's Sparrow raises more than one brood a year, and nests are found there much earlier than June 4. I do not know the number of broods raised here but I do not believe that a brood preceded this one.

(July 24, 1944.)

In Memoriam

"And when death calls across the shadowy fields,
Dying it (courage) answers, 'Here I am, not dead'."

These lines, from John Galsworthy's *Courage*, have been thrice used in some of the simple memorials or tributes to the late Mrs. May Davis Higham, of Raleigh, whose tragic passing on April 1 has shocked all Carolinians. Mrs. Higham, who was a charter member of the N. C. Bird Club, had the faith which shines in service to her fellow man, and she exemplified that faith particularly after the death of her companion husband, John V. Higham, some years ago, by trying to fill the loneliness of her life with interest and activities in various fields with a useful purpose—club activities, Colonial Dames, U. D. C., Civic Music, Garden Club, birds, and the Blind Institute where she taught for several years. Her home, a lovely quiet retreat of several acres, featuring flowers and shrubs, azaleas and climbing roses, was open to the public just the Sunday before that fatal Easter night. For the last few years she has kept open house on week-ends for men in the service. With many of them she later corresponded, and to literally hundreds of them, now scattered on all our fighting fronts, she is indeed not dead but "a living memory of tender faith and friendship," a friendship which was offered to and gladly received by many a lonely soldier boy far from home.

And in that part of her garden which was not injured by the fire, or trampled by firemen or curious crowds, the birds are again nesting, and singing. "Till the very sky is criss-crossed, silken thong on thong, with a net of joyous song."

CHARLOTTE HILTON GREEN.

Word has been received that Lt. Col. William Riddick Crawford, for the past several years an active member of the N. C. Bird Club, was killed

in action February 6, in the battle of Manila in the Philippine Islands. Colonel Crawford, the son of Mrs. Kate Riddick Crawford and the late Capt. Louis Crawford, was born at Hertford, N. C., September 6, 1914. He graduated at West Point in 1937, and at the outbreak of the present war he was stationed in Puerto Rico. On returning to the United States mainland, he was requested to train as a parachutist, and after graduation from the Parachutist School at Fort Benning, Georgia, he was again sent overseas, this time to the far east with G4, as a member of the General Staff of the 11th Airborne Division. He served throughout the Leyte campaign, and was awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service. His wife, the former Miss Mary Shelburne, has been making her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Shelburne, at Washington, N. C.

Words are ineffectual in expressing our sympathy to the relatives in the passing of this gallant gentlemen, who, as thousands of other young Americans who have made the supreme sacrifice, would only wish the praise that he had done his duty. That their sacrifices be not in vain, let us hope, and pray, and work that this world will become a better living place for all mankind.

RUTH B. BROWN.

Winston-Salem Public Library and Bird Study

JESSIE McMILLAN STROUP, Assistant Librarian, Winston-Salem

The war has brought an interesting and interested group of new people to our community. As they orient themselves, getting acquainted with our bird life has drawn many of them to the shelf of bird books in Winston-Salem's Carnegie Public Library. "*Birds of North Carolina*," by Pearson, Brimley and Brimley has been the perfect answer to their questions, and it has been a great satisfaction to us to be able to say, "Yes, here is exactly your book."

A bird loving friend of our library made a handsome panel, two feet six inches by five feet, by mounting on composition board the colored plates from the *National Geographic Magazine's* bird study number. This panel is displayed in the Children's Room each spring at the time of bird migrations. Always a group of youngsters cluster around it, pointing out and identifying bird friends as the librarian tries to answer their questions and guide them to books where they may find fuller stories. This is supplemented with a bulletin board display about bird books.

We have a considerable file of bird pictures which we lend to teachers, and Scoutmasters, and anyone who can use them. The library subscribes to *The Chat*, *North Carolina Wildlife Conservation*, *Nature Magazine*, and *Outdoor Life*, and adds books on birds as funds and space make possible.

Field Notes and News

TOO BAD—John H. Mayer's 1944 Christmas count at Greensboro, in the *Audubon Magazine's Field Notes* for March-April, 1945, seems too good to be true. He lists: Ruffed Grouse, 1 (not known in N. C. east of the mountains); Blackcapped Chickadee, 17 (not known in N. C. except on tops of a few of the highest mountains); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 (not recorded elsewhere in N. C. this winter); House Wren, 1 (only winter record is on the coast); Black and White Warbler, 1 (extremely unlikely); Pine Siskin, 9 (no other records for this winter); Tree Sparrow, 37 (very few records from N. C., nearly all from the mountains, and never more than one or two at a time in the Piedmont); Pinewoods Sparrow, (Bachman's Sparrow?; not known from Greensboro in winter). Other birds that are possibilities but unlikely are: Pheasant, 1; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 1; Long-eared Owl, 1; Catbird, 2; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 1. His total list was 82 species, including Rock Dove which merely means tame pigeon and should not be counted. Considering that the Piedmont Bird Club's list on December 30 ran up to 58 species and included none of the birds listed above by Mayer, and that this count was made by 21 observers as against a single one, it would seem best to disregard Mayer's list altogether.

C. S. BRIMLEY.

WHISTLING SWANS AT RALEIGH: On December 17, 1944, Roxie Simpson (in town from Washington, D. C.), John Coffey, Robert Cooper, Oscar Williamson, and Jimmy McCulloch, were on a field trip to Lakes Raleigh and Johnson. When they found the swans, and an abundance of wild ducks of 15 or 16 species, they called town, and consequently Ernest Mitchell and I soon also were out there. There were three adult Whistlers and six immature specimens, the latter known by their dull necks and upper bodies. Mr. Jones, who is in charge of the two reservoirs, told us he had seen the swans as early as Dec. 10, a full week previous, on Lake Johnson. These same swans were also noted on the Christmas Count on Dec. 28, and again on Dec. 31, when Mrs. Simpson was again in town. Oscar Williams and I saw them again on Jan. 6, and nearly a month later Robert Cooper reported them on Feb. 4. Since then they have been seen on Feb. 11, and 25, the last time by John Coffey and Robert Cooper.

NORMAN MCCULLOCH, JR.

MOUNT OLIVE: On a hike Feb. 17, I observed 22 species of birds, including approximately 700 Cowbirds, a flock of 150 Red-wing Blackbirds, and a flock of about 250 Cedar Waxwings. On Feb. 28, I saw a Purple Finch. I observed a Night-hawk on March 25 and 26, about three weeks earlier than it is listed in *Birds of North Carolina*. I flushed a Greater Yellow-legs several times from a water filled sandhole, on March 27.

BOB HOLMES, III.

RALEIGH: On Dec. 11, we took an afternoon trip to Lake Johnson, staying out from noon to 6 o'clock. The day was fair and sunny with a few clouds, temperature about 60° F. The following birds were observed: Pied-billed Grebe 1, Cormorant 1, Great Blue Heron 1, Whistling Swan 9, Canada Goose 2, Mallard 150, Black Duck 152, Gadwall 2, Baldpate 1, Pintail 2m, Green-winged Teal 9, Shoveller 1m, Red-head 2m, 1f, Ringneck 200 plus, Canvasback 2f, Lesser Scaup 4m, Goldeneye 2m, Buffhead 1m, Ruddy Duck 8, Hooded Merganser 2m, American Merganser 9m, Red-breasted Merganser 2, Turkey Vulture 3, Cooper's Hawk 1, Bald Eagle, 1 ad fem., Dove 1, Kingfisher 3, Downy Woodpecker 1, Jay 26, Crow 2, Chickadee 10, Tufted Titmouse 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 2, Mockingbird 12, Hermit

Thrush 1, Bluebird 6, Ruby-crown Kinglet 12, Shrike 2, Starling 100, Pine Warbler 8, English Sparrow 25, Meadowlark 5, Cardinal 3, Goldfinch 1, Junco 50, Field Sparrow 4, White-throated Sparrow 1, Fox Sparrow 3, Swamp Sparrow 1. Total 50 species, 856 individuals, of which 652 or more than half were ducks, geese and swans, divided among 19 species.

JOHN COFFEY, JR., ROBERT COOPER.

ORTON PLANTATION: On Feb. 18, 40 species of birds were seen at Orton Plantation (between Wilmington and Southport.) The following are some of the species observed: Red-tailed Hawk; Herring Gull; Wilson's Snipe; Rusty Blackbird; Tree Swallow (several hundred); Junco; American Egret; and Short-billed Marsh Wren. I saw the egret alight silently on the edge of a road, beside one of the old rice fields. He took flight immediately, showing clearly his black legs and yellow bill. The Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen after I had been attracted by its call. It wasn't easy to locate because it was hidden deeply in a jasmine vine growing on a fence.

BOB HOLMES, III.

WINSTON-SALEM: Purple Martins arrived here March 14, within two days of the average date of arrival for past four years. Bluebirds nesting March 14. Downy Woodpecker finished nesting hole in my yard. Returning Robins seemed larger and with colored breast plumage brighter than usual. Noticeably fewer English Sparrows here, compared with past ten years. Observed first brood of Bluebirds flying on April 30.

HENRY MAGIE.

BOONE: Saw the first Robins and Bluebirds on February 12, in our garden.

MRS. M. W. BURWELL.

ROBINS NESTING EARLY AT ASHEVILLE: This may be *scuttlebut*, but the mimeographed *Welfare and Recreation Bulletin* of the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital, at Kenilworth, Asheville, N. C., in their March 30 issue (Vol. I, No 35), stated that on March 28 A. Grant Bailey saw two baby robins out of their nest and accompanied by the parent birds. He added: "This is believed to be the earliest date in years for the appearance of Robin fledglings in this area."

A. D. S.

ROANOKE RAPIDS: Saw the Maryland Yellowthroat March 26.

CLARA HEARNE.

GOLDFINCHES DIE BY HUNDREDS: During the first weeks of April, several hundred dead Goldfinches were found in Greensboro, along a small stream near Greensboro College. Mrs. Edith Settan, president of Greensboro's Piedmont Bird Club, called the matter to the attention of the city health department, which investigated, and, we understand, reported that the death of the birds was likely due to the disposal of injurious industrial wastes in the small stream, which poisoned the water, and this, it is understood, has been stopped.

A. D. S.

SONG SPARROWS NEST AT GREENSBORO: The increasing number of Song Sparrows which have been seen in Greensboro during the late spring and summers of 1943 and 1944 by various observers has strongly indicated that they nested here, but we have been unable to locate a nest until this spring. On April 24 I made a careful check for nests in the Lake Daniel region where Song Sparrows were often observed. In a seven-foot dense evergreen shrub I found a nest with three young ready to fly, which they did upon my intrusion. Left in the nest was the broken

remains of an egg, bluish-gray, with distinct red-brown spots. The nest dimensions were: height, 1.5 m.; depth of cavity, 38 mm.; inside diameter, 65 mm. Thus we have concrete proof of an extension of range of the Song Sparrow.

THOMAS L. ZAPP.

SPRING ARRIVALS AT SOUTHPORT: The Egrets arrived March 3, about 25 birds. On March 11 I saw three eggs. I waited about two weeks and then started visiting the Island every other day until the eighth of April when I found two young ones in the nest. The Snowys, Bitterns, Louisianas, and Black-crowned Night Herons were here on March 29. I saw Snowy eggs on April 3. The birds are more plentiful than ever before in spite of the storm last year.

DUGAN JONES, Southport, N. C.

SURF SCOTERS AT GREENSBORO: Three Surf Scoters were observed on April 29 at New Pond, a large new (fresh water) reservoir near Greensboro, by Geo. Smith, Larry Crawford, and myself. This relatively large body of water is becoming a stopping place for many water birds. On April 29, I observed the following on New Pond: Common Loon; Double-crested Cormorant, 2 imm.; Herring Gull, 2 (L. Crawford and I saw 1 on March 10); Ring-billed Gull, 3 imm.; Caspian Tern, 1; Black Tern, 6.

TOM ZAPP.

BIRDS FEAST ON PERIODICAL CICADAS: In Guilford County and numerous other sections of North Carolina during the past three weeks the 1928 brood of the Periodical Cicadas (17-year-"locusts") have been emerging by countless thousands after nearly 17 years spent underground, and are furnishing food for many birds. I have watched flocks of Cedar Waxwings feeding on these insects, and several other observers have reported seeing Waxwings and Scarlet Tanagers joining the feast. Wild tales are told of the destruction likely to be wrought by the co-called "locusts," but as a matter of fact, except for the annoyance of their continuous mournful buzzing for several weeks, the only damage which the cicadas do seems to be done to the ends of twigs of trees which are injured and killed as a result of the deposition of their eggs.

A. D. S.

PARTIAL ALBINO ROBIN AT WINSTON-SALEM: Wm. S. Rothrock reported an albino Robin nesting at Winston-Salem, so on Tuesday, April 24, I dropped in on Henry Magie at Winston-Salem for a chat, and also with the hope that I might have an opportunity to see the unusual Robin. Magie called up James Stephenson, president of the Winston-Salem Bird Club, who took us to see the Robin. Some very young Robins were in the nest on the previous Saturday, April 21, but Stephenson's examination on the 24th revealed an empty nest—likely cleaned out by some predator. Apparently the albino is a male, and it was mated with a normal colored female. A good view of the albino from the top while it was feeding showed nearly the yellowish color of a regular albino, but in flight the presence of scattered dark feathers was apparent. The tail particularly was dark grayish. The breast showed the Robin brick red color, which was a striking contrast with the lighter colored feathers of the body. Neighbors had noticed the albino since March, and the locality is being kept under observation in the hope that the pair might nest there again in a few weeks.

A. D. S.

CLEAN BIRD BOXES are more attractive at nesting time. Nesting boxes should be thoroughly cleaned. Do this as soon as a brood leaves the box.

With the Editor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS: The executive committee of the North Carolina Bird Club met Saturday, May 12, in Raleigh, where they were delightfully entertained at the home of Mrs. R. W. (Charlotte Hilton) Green. With an interesting garden made still more attractive by its bird occupants, it was difficult to go inside to discuss the business of the day. At noon business was suspended for a time, while Mrs. Green, assisted by Mrs. O. F. Jensen, served a delicious meal which we enjoyed before an open fire. During the day, many interesting, worthwhile ideas were advanced. Among the ideas discussed and acted upon were the following:

1. The present officers agreed to continue until the next annual meeting, which will be held in the spring of 1946 if travel restrictions are removed.

2. An executive committee meeting will be held in late September or October, with Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, at Charlotte. It is planned to have an officially elected or appointed representative from each active local club present at this meeting.

3. The treasurer's books were audited. Receipts for the past year, by the treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, were \$1,149.79; expenditures, \$649.00; balance on hand, May 5, 1945, \$500.79.

4. Membership chairman, Mrs. Edith Settan, reported approximately 550 paid-up members. Plans are being made for an intensive membership drive to begin in September.

5. Education chairman, Dr. Carey Bostian, reported plans to encourage the organization of junior bird clubs in the elementary schools of the state, and to make available suitable literature for these schools.

6. Reserve fund to be established to further various desirable work projects for the N. C. Bird Club. (You will hear more of this later.)

Members of the executive committee present, besides Mrs. Green, Mrs. Jensen, and Mrs. Wall, were: President, Miss Clara Hearne; secretary, Miss Nancy Eliason; editor of *The Chat*, Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury; and Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. Others who attended and contributed to the meeting were Dr. C. H. Bostian, Mrs. Edith Settan, Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, Edwin Clarkson, and R. W. Green.

There is evidence of much enthusiastic interest of members through the state. Keep sending in new memberships and cooperate with Dr. Bostian.

MOCKINGBIRD NEST DECORATIONS: According to Carl Spencer's cartoon feature, "Odd Facts in Carolina," in the *Greensboro Daily News*, Apr. 8, a pair of Mockingbirds at Guilford College last spring removed about twenty-five star shaped identification tags from new rose bushes set out by Mrs. J. H. Peele, and hung them on their nest with the small pieces of wire by which the tags had hung on the rose bushes.

SILER CITY SANCTUARY HONORS SERVICE MEN: The Siler City Municipal Song Bird Sanctuary, the fourth to be established in the south, is to be dedicated to "our boys in the service," following a unanimous vote of the student body of the Siler City High School, on April 11, at an enthusiastic chapel meeting, which was attended by members of the Siler City Garden Club as guests, and addressed by Mrs. Henry Pike.

N. C. STATE MUSEUM INFORMATION CIRCULARS: The N. C. State Museum, at Raleigh, provides free mimeographed Information Circulars on the following popular subjects: Aquaria for Schools; Bats—Flying Mammals; Making a Bird Skin; North Carolina Gold; Meteorites; Opossums; White-tail or Virginia Deer

(Trophies); Fossil Whales in North Carolina; Mammoths and Mastodons; Insects and Entomology; The Cardinal; Native Poisonous Plants; single sheets in description and habits of 30 common North Carolina Birds. These are provided free. Please specify only those you actually need.

BIRD ARTICLES WRITTEN BY N. C. B. C. MEMBERS: In the January-February issue of *North Carolina Wildlife Conservation*, monthly publication of the Division of Game and Inland Fisheries of the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development, there are two interesting articles written by N. C. Bird Club members: "Bird Conservation," by Miss Nancy Eliason, member of the Statesville Audubon Club and Secretary of the N. C. B. C., and "Some Birds of Interest to the Sportsmen," by Frank B. Meacham, of the N. C. State Museum, secretary of the Raleigh Bird Club.

HIGH SCHOOL ORNITHOLOGY ESSAY CONTEST AWARDS: Prof. Murray F. Buell, chairman of the High School committee of the North Carolina Academy of Science, has just announced the judges' selections for the prizes offered in the annual High School Ornithology Essay Contest. The winners are: first prize—Binford Moon, Piedmont Junior High School, Charlotte, for "Birds of Prey"; second prize—Ines Urdanetta, Central High School, Charlotte, for "Dom Pedro"; third prize—Vivian Surles, John Nichols School, Oxford Orphanage, Oxford, for "Teaching Birds to Beginners." *The Chat* hopes to publish the first-prize winning essay in an early issue.

BIRD STUDY FOR ELEMENTARY GRADES is the title of a splendid article by the N. C. Bird Club President, Miss Clara Hearne, in the March number of *North Carolina Education*, the journal of the North Carolina Education Association. Miss Hearne, who is elementary supervisor of the Roanoke Rapids Schools, has taught for many years in the elementary schools of North Carolina and well knows the needs for teaching boys and girls an appreciation and a sense of protection of our natural resources. Certainly many of the progressive teachers who read the more than eighteen thousand copies of *North Carolina Education* will find valuable help in the practical outline which Miss Hearne gives.

A NOTE FROM ROXIE COLLIE SIMPSON: A letter dated March 2, to Mrs. Margaret Wall, from Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson, formerly with the N. C. State Museum, at Raleigh, and now with the U. S. National Museum, at Washington, D. C., was not intended for publication, but I hope Roxie will forgive us for quoting a part of it. She says: "I attended the meeting of the District of Columbia Audubon Society on February 21. Four of Peterson's original paintings were on exhibit there—the Cardinal, Flamingoes, Bluebirds, and Summer Tanagers. They have not yet been published. I wish you could have seen them. Mrs. Peterson was at the meeting but he was not. Last Sunday Robert Gibbs and Napier Skelton, members of the Audubon Society here, accompanied me on a field trip along the tow path of the old Baltimore and Ohio canal. We saw five Wood Ducks and a female Golden-eye, which were firsts for Robert. We observed a total of thirty-two birds for the afternoon. I am still busy working on old bird skins. Am making up Glaucous Gulls at present, and hope to complete them next week. Then will work for a couple of weeks on Eider Ducks, which should finish up the Warmbath Arctic collection of 1900. . . . Best regards to all. Yours sincerely, ROXIE COLLIE SIMPSON." Roxie was an active worker with both the Raleigh Bird Club and the N. C. Bird Club and was particularly active in spreading the Junior Member idea. Her present address is: Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson, 336 Seventeenth Pl., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

New Members

Here are more names of new members who have been approved since Januray 5, 1945. The remaining names will be published as space permits. We are glad to welcome these members to the N. C. Bird Club. If there are errors in addresses or spelling, please let us know.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Dr. L. A. Andrew, Jr., 2839 Reynolds Road, Winston-Salem. | Mrs. Ethel Powers, 207 Colonial Drive, Wilmington. |
| Marjorie and Marion Andrews, 407 N. Main St., Lenoir. | Miss Eva Ray, 411 W. Broad St., Statesville. |
| Mrs. Mildred Baldridge, 219 S. Hawthorne Road, Winston-Salem. | Miss Rhea Ritchie, Box 14, Richfield. |
| Juanita Bowman, R. 4, Lenoir. | R. C. Rivers, Boone. |
| Mrs. W. G. Bunch, 600 Hamilton St., Roanoke Rapids. | Dr. C. L. Robbins, Lenoir. |
| Mrs. E. Sloan Carter, Box 185, Taylorsville. | Dr. and Mrs. Heywood Ross, 315 Tranquil Ave., Charlotte. |
| L. A. Crawford, 112 N. Mendenhall St., Greensboro. | Mrs. Key Scales, 87 Lee Drive, Wilmington. |
| Mrs. Robert Crawford, Rutherfordton, N. C. | Mrs. R. E. Settan, 1003 Guilford Ave., Greensboro. |
| Miss Jeannette Current, Mt. Vernon, Cleveland, N. C. | Major V. M. Shell, Arden. |
| Mrs. W. J. Dula, Lenoir. | Mrs. W. B. Simons, 2324 Briarwood Road, Charlotte. |
| Robert Henry Gibbs, Jr., 114 W. Thornapple St., Chevy Chase 15, Md. | Miss Christie Smith, Elizabeth City. |
| Clyde R. Green, Boone. | Dr. David T. Smith, Duke Univ. Med. School, Durham. |
| Mrs. James Griggs, Box 622, Lenoir. | Gilbert Smith, Robersonville. |
| Mrs. Ralph Hanes, Box 840, Winston-Salem. | Mrs. J. Howard Smith, 221 N. Patterson St., Statesville. |
| Graham Holloway, 408 West Harper Ave., Lenoir. | Wallace Smith, Jr., 222 Hawthorn Road, Raleigh. |
| Mr. Tancil Horne, 2101 Creasy Ave., Wilmington. | Smythys Store, Boone. |
| Mrs. J. Belton Lyles, 320 Mills Ave., Spartanburg, S. C. | Mrs. R. H. Spainhour, Lenoir. |
| Miss Ann Musto, 416 Arch St., Cloquet, Minn. | Miss Esther Springs, 246 Cottage Place, Charlotte 4. |
| Mrs. W. Oliver, Box 143, Asheville. | E. J. Stoker, 1504 West Market Street, Greensboro. |
| Col. Frank Page, Box 114, Greensboro. | Mrs. Thomas W. Sprinkle, 115 Brently Circle, High Point. |
| Mrs. D. Ralph Parker, 401 Woodbrook Court, High Point. | Lee S. Stout, Boone. |
| Miss Ann Blackwell Payne, 407 S. Front St., Wilmington. | Mrs. Virginia Dare Strothers, care Core Creek High School, Sugar Grove |
| Mrs. George W. Perrett, 424 Forest Ave., Greensboro. | Miss Helen Taylor, 221 Pearson Drive, Asheville. |
| Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Asst. Prof. Zool., Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. | Miss Martha Thompson, R. 2, Travelers' Rest, S. C. |
| Miss Birdie Phillips, R. 3, Greenville. | L. C. Tollèson, 76 Latimer St., Greenville, S. C. |
| Mrs. Pearl S. Pickett, 802 N. Main St., High Point. | Tommie Trimble, 205 Cottage Place, Charlotte 4. |
| Miss Marlene Porter, 112 Chisholm St., Sanford. | Mrs. Alan Turner, R. 2, B. 398, Greensboro. |
| Mrs. J. T. Potter, 1521 Stanford Pl., Charlotte 4. | U. S. O., Main St., Durham. |
| | U. S. O., Morris St., Durham. |
| | Miss Sue Veazey, 608 Palmetto St., Spartanburg, S. C. |

LOCAL CLUBS AND THEIR OFFICERS

- Arden, Rosscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Major V. M. Shell, Arden; V-P—Mrs. H. B. Swope, Skyland; S-T—H. B. Swope, Skyland
- Asheville Bird Club: P—Capt. W. A. Angwin, U. S. N.; V-P—Arthur Brimley; S—Mrs. M. F. Meredith; T—Mrs. Francis E. Field.
- Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club: P—Miss Lena Reeves; V-P—Mrs. Joe Winkler
- Boone Bird Club: P—Mrs. Mack Luttrell; V-P—Mrs. W. M. Burwell and Mr. Norton; S-T—Miss Cora Jeffcoat.
- Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Dr. Maurice Whittinghill; V-P—Mrs. C. H. Pegg; S—Mrs. O. F. Jensen; T—Mrs. R. B. Sharpe.
- Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—B. Rhett Chamberlain, 1320 Biltmore Drive; V. P.—Sarah Nooe; S—Miss Margaret Coble, 1135 Buchanan St., T—Mrs. J. H. Stainback; Publicity Chairman—Mrs. G. C. Potter, 2111 Malvern Rd., Charlotte 4.
- Concord, Rex Brasher Bird Club.
- Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha B. Hopkins, 506 Buchanan Road; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.
- Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Edith Settan, 1043 W. Market St.; V-P—Mrs. George W. Perrett and Miss Sarah Lesley; Rec. S—Mrs. Floyd Hugh Craft; Cor. S—Miss Maude Adams, 317½ Tate St., Apt. 3; T—J. E. Maxey.
- Guilford College, T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club: P—Elizabeth Hare; V-P—J. G. Gilbert; S-T—Margery Pickett.
- Henderson Bird Club: P—Mrs. G. E. Rose; V-P—Mrs. E. B. Flanagan; S-T—Mrs. W. B. Daniel
- Hickory Bird Club: P—Dr. H. A. Althouse; V-P—Weston Clinard; S-T—Mrs. George E. Bisanar
- Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Fred H. May, 211 Beall St.; V-P—Thos. Parks; S—Miss May Puett, 512 West Harper St.
- Raleigh Bird Club: P—J. H. Slaughter, 525 N. Bloodworth St.; V-P—Mrs. A. J. Skaale; S-T—F. B. Meacham
- Roanoke Rapids Bird Club: P—Mrs. A. O. Pendleton, R. 1, Bolling Rd.; V-P—Mrs. C. E. Matthews; S—Miss Mary Hix, 536 Hamilton St.; T—Mrs. R. G. Knight
- Salisbury Bird Club.
- Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T. & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring
- Statesville Audubon Club: P—Mrs. J. Howard Smith; V-P—Miss Grace Anderson; S—Mrs. Stephen Blankenship; T—Mrs. Earl Davis
- Tryon Bird Club: P—G. H. Holmes; S-T—Katherine D. Hamilton
- Washington, Bughouse Laboratory: P—Sally Bogart; S-T—Elizabeth Shelton; Director, Joe Biggs
- Winston-Salem Bird Club: P—Henry Magie; S-T—Wm. S. Rothrock, 2434 Stockton St.; Directors—Charles H. Babcock, Thurmond Chatham, Jr., Richard J. Reynolds, II.

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



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The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*

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DR. C. S. BRIMLEY, *Associate Editor*

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

My Ruby-Throats

BERTHA CELESTIE HONEYCUTT, Burnsville, N. C.

(The Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the eastern United States is our sole representative of a group of small, brilliantly colored birds found only in the Americas. A single one would scarcely equal the weight of a copper cent. In flight the Ruby-throats closely resemble certain insects, notably the sphinx or hawk moths which come about flowers on summer evenings. They particularly like the nectar from the flowers of such plants as larkspur, columbine, four-o'clock, bergamot, honeysuckle, trumpet vine, and mimosa tree, and are easily attracted to feeding tubes filled with a solution of sugar in water. The tongue is split at the tip, apparently facilitating their feeding on nectar, though much of the food of the very young is partly digested tiny insects. In traveling from flower to flower, like bees, moths and other insects, they assist in the pollination of flowers. Some Ruby-throats winter in south Florida and south Texas, but most of them go to Mexico and Central America.—Editor.)

Three thousand feet above sea level, nestling at the foot of Mt. Mitchell in North Carolina, is the small town of Burnsville. Here I met my little friends, the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, that have meant so much to me. Near a winding brook bordering our yard stands a beautiful walnut tree, fifty feet tall, with some of its graceful lower limbs almost touching the ground. It was in the shady coolness of this tree that it all began.

In June, 1944, my father, who was then 88 years old, was looking over the tree to see how many walnuts there were, when near the end of a branch, about seventeen feet from our porch and five feet from the ground, he saw something that he had never seen before. He called me and pointed to a lichen-covered Hummingbird's nest. Lowering the limb with my hand I looked down into its soft spider-web beauty, and saw two tiny white eggs. Great care had been taken to place the nest under a canopy of leaves, so it was well protected from the sun and rain. The next time I went to her home, Mrs. Ruby-throat was sitting on her nest, but she quickly flew away when I drew near. Very soon, however, any member of our family could stand near the nest, and she would continue to sit on her eggs.

When we came to the nest on the morning of July 3rd, we were thrilled to find a young bird about the size of a bumblebee, and later in the day another. There was nothing to indicate a bill except a slight angle in the yellow ring that surrounded their mouths. Soon a tiny black bill developed, and as the birds grew larger, their bills grew longer and longer. When they were almost two weeks old I fastened a small bottle filled with sweetened water to the limb about three feet from the nest. A piece of gay print tied around the neck of the bottle and over the limb, served two purposes: to attract the mother bird and to hold the jar at just the right angle, so that she could get her bill into the water. Next morning before

I arose, Mrs. Ruby-throat came to my sleeping porch and made three beautiful curtsies. This, seemingly, was done to thank me for more nectar than she had ever seen at one time in all her life.

The two young birds grew so fast that it looked as if they would break down the nest before they were three weeks old. One of the birds was slightly larger than the other, and was more alert. Its eyes and head followed a walnut leaf that I waved back and forth above the nest.

On the morning of July 24 we took some tourists to see our little friends, and to our surprise found only one bird in the nest. Whether it was male or female I had no way of knowing. Certainly neither of them had ever worn a ruby to indicate their ancestry. As we looked intently at the little creature it began to flop its wings and go through some sort of 'daily dozen' performance. I remarked that "the birds are three weeks old today, the other one has flown and I think this one is going soon," but I never dreamed how soon. I thought there would be a great many feeble efforts, and finally the little one would light uncertainly on a nearby limb. What was our surprise when it suddenly arose and soared far up in the walnut tree.

At first the birds wore a coat of gray, but gradually a trimming of shiny green was added to the backs of their gowns, so that the day they went out into the wide, wide world, they looked exactly like their mother, including a white border on their tails, except that the green on their backs was a more delicate shade. Of course, they were not so large as their mother and their bills did not look to be quite as long as hers.

It was a joy to watch the mother bird drink from the bottle and to see how rapidly the water disappeared. When I allowed the bottle to become empty, or the water too low for their convenience, she would fly into the porch, fly all about my head, and linger in front of my eyes to remind me of my neglect. Then when the bottle had been filled and she and her young were satiated, she would come and curtsy as though to thank me for my kindness. Later I moved the bottle from the tree and fastened it to a clothes line on the porch. Here the young birds, as well as the mother, would drink avidly, fly to me and curtsy, then go shimmering off through the sunlight to some nearby tree where they watched to see what new surprise I had for them. It was at this time that some bees got into the bottle and were drowned. To keep them out I cut a small hole in a piece of print and, tying it over the mouth of the bottle, waited to see what the birds would do. They did not hesitate to put their bills through the hole and drink. In no time they learned to keep the bees away and it was not necessary to cover the bottle. When the water would get too low

they rested their little black feet on the edge of the bottle and drank with wings vibrating.

A piece of red silk was placed over a small box on the porch table. In this box I tilted the bottle. Nothing daunted, the birds would come and drink, even if we were sitting at the table with our hands ever so near them. One day the mother decided for some reason not to let one of the birds come to the table. She chased it away, took the water in her bill, and carrying it to the young one perched on the clothes line, put it into its eager open mouth.

One day, taking the bottle with its red bow still attached, I sat on the porch and tilted it at a convenient angle. Almost immediately one of our little green fairies came to drink. It was at this time that I heard them give a faint 'cheep' when they had finished drinking. After sipping they always extended their tongues an inch and moved them from side to side; for what purpose I do not know—probably to cleanse their mouths. Then I filled the lid of the bottle with their much loved beverage and placed it in a flower in the palm of my hand. They were delighted with this, and one would chase another away, returning to drink its fill. We later decided that the chaser was probably the mother, teaching her young how to look out for themselves. It was not long until any member of our family and some of our neighbors could be seen on our porch, feeding the birds from their hands.

If they came to drink when the bottle was covered on the floor they would wait, suspended in the air, until I had picked up the bottle, removed the lid and adjusted it. Once when I had taken the bottle in to be washed and refilled, I found one of the tiny sprites shyly fluttering at the door, waiting to be fed. It drank, curtsied and flew away.

If their bottle was hung in the wrong place, or the bow fell too far over its mouth, they would fly to me and fly back to the bottle. They watched me constantly. It was almost uncanny. Sometimes I had an eerie feeling that I was being shadowed. If I placed their food with a different color or in a different place, they would fly in to examine it before I could get away. Once I placed a clock on an icebox on the porch to time myself about some work, and before I could get into the house one of the birds came to look it over. I am sure they thought that I had nothing to do but study up new surprises for them. If we neglected them for long, they would fly to the kitchen window and look in at us.

They had the greatest curiosity. One day one of them carefully examined my hose and at different times they examined the flowers on my print dress. One put its bill into a glass of water that I was drinking and one pecked saucily into an apple that a caller was eating. A girl friend

came to see us wearing morning-glories in her hair. They came more than once to examine the flowers, poking their little bills into each. One day they were determined to get their bills into a large pink artificial flower on the hat of a caller.

During all of these interesting experiences Mr. Ruby-throat never to my knowledge appeared upon the scene but once. On this occasion he was nattily attired in what was apparently his very best suit, and, of course, he was wearing his ruby coat-of-arms. He suddenly approached to within a few feet of the hand that twas extended to feed his family, and as suddenly made his exit, hiding in a nearby rosebush.

As this story of contrasts—the little town, the great Mt. Mitchell; the tiny eggs, the large trees; the wee young birds, the old, old man—draws to a close, it is fitting that the concluding contrast should be found in one who has given her life to the study of our birds and heavenly bodies. Mrs. Jennie Lynne Kyle, of Jacksonville, Florida, arrived in the nick of time. Mrs. Kyle, president for three years of the Jacksonville Audubon Society, chairman of the State Membership Committee of the Florida Audubon Society and prominent worker in ornithology, is deeply concerned about every bird on earth and every sphere in the heavens, from the tiniest hummingbird to the greatest sun in the vast systems above. Mrs. Kyle sat on our porch, and I was thrilled to see one of our lovely hummingbirds drink from her hand.

(Dec. 7, 1944.)

News of Local Clubs

LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB: The club met Tuesday evening, July 3rd, on the beautiful lawn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Green. The tall trees and dense hedges formed a background for bird feeders, bird baths, and for many birds that seemed to have no timidity and shared in the program with their presence and songs. In the absence of the president, Tom Parks presided, and an informal discussion of birds' nests was the theme of the meeting. Tom Greer, of Philadelphia, a guest of the hosts, was present and added to the program by telling of the pigeons of Philadelphia and the city's plan to exterminate them because they carry parrot fever.

A tour of the grounds to observe birds was greatly enjoyed.

MAY PUETT, Secretary.

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: At the May meeting, held on the evening of Thursday, the 10th, at the home of Mrs. George Warlick, possibilities of ridding entire forests and fields of insects were discussed, and Mrs. Eugene Ivey read an article on the subject from the *Audubon Magazine*. Arthur Moser lead a discussion based on an article in the May number of *Coronet* which condemns feeding and providing other attractions for birds. Weston Clinard, presiding in the absence of H. D. Althouse, conducted a bird identification quiz course, in which Mrs. Katherine Vallotton won high score.

The June meeting, held on Thursday evening, the 14th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moser, in Forest Park, featured a bird walk to study nests of the various

species and to observe unusual birds to be found in this area. The prize find was the nest of an Ovenbird, the first to be reported in this section and the first ever seen by many of the members and guests present. Another rare treat was the discovery of a Towhee's nest. Upon the return of the group from the walk, the hostess served red raspberries grown in her own garden. Drastic action was promised if further reports were heard of indiscriminate destruction of song birds by certain local boys. Mrs. Fred Catchings and Mrs. Robert Brown were guests of the club.

On Thursday evening, August 23rd, at a meeting held at the Educational building of the First Presbyterian church, the Hickory Bird Club presented to a large and enthusiastic audience, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., who gave a lecture, "Out-of-Doors in New England," which was illustrated with colored moving pictures of the flora and fauna of the New England coast and inland forests. In discussion of general bird questions at the close of the lecture, Mr. Sprunt expressed little hope for the survival of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, as the timber is being cut away in the swamps of Louisiana where the few of them remain. In answer to a question about the effect of DDT, the new insect poison, on bird life, if used extensively, Mr. Sprunt pointed out instances of vast destruction of bird life where it has been sprayed, since birds die from eating the poisoned insects which have come in contact with the poison as the insects do not die at once after being subjected to the poison. Mr. Sprunt was much interested in the report of the Prairie Horned Lark discovered at the Hickory airport this summer, a rare instance of a species nesting so far south of its natural nesting grounds.

Mr. Sprunt was accompanied by Mrs. Sprunt from Montreat, where they and their two children are spending some time. Visitors at the lecture included large groups from the Statesville and Lenoir Bird Clubs, some members of the Catawba Rod and Gun Club, members of the Hickory Junior Bird Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and numerous others.

J. WESTON CLINARD, Vice-President.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB: The members of Greensboro's Piedmont Bird Club conducted a spring bird count on Saturday, May 5th. In the evening, the census takers, thirty in number, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Medford, in Irving Park, where a delightful dinner was served. A list of the results of the count will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The regular May meeting was held on Thursday evening, May 17th, in the Science building of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. Moving pictures, furnished by the U. S. Department of the Interior, were shown, including "Know the Hawks," "The Western Grebe," and a general nature film. The pictures on hawks were of special interest because hawks are the club's special study for this year. We heard the reports of the members who attended the meeting of the executive committee of the N. C. Bird Club recently in Raleigh, and were well pleased to learn that Greensboro still ranks first in membership, having more than 60 members in the North Carolina Bird Club.

The meeting which concluded our spring series of regular meetings, was held Saturday, June 2nd, at the Greensboro Country Park. A field trip preceded a most delightful basket supper. The meeting ended with a business session followed by dancing the Virginia reel.

MRS. F. H. CRAFT, Recording Secretary.

WINSTON-SALEM BIRD CLUB: Our annual meeting was held April 30, in the Reynolds building, with President James Stephenson, in charge. Reports were given on the club's activities, talks in public schools and at County Grange and Boy Scout meetings, and showings of the club's moving picture before women's clubs and the Grange. Reports were given on the four sanctuaries sponsored by the Club, and operating under the five-year co-operative agreement with the North Carolina De-

partment of Conservation and Development. Plans were outlined for establishing sanctuaries in the city waterworks watershed of 1,200 acres, the Salem College campus, and the Bowman Gray estate adjoining Reynolda sanctuary, and for co-operation with Henry Stokes, chairman of the Mills Home, Baptist orphanage at Thomasville, in organizing a 400-acre sanctuary. Wm. Rothrock showed the Club's moving picture, "Attracting Birds to Your Garden," taken by him and Henry Lindley in their gardens during the spring and summer of 1944, and picturing some twelve species of birds—nesting, feeding, and in flight. The new officers unanimously elected at this meeting include: Henry Magie, president; Wm. S. Rothrock, secretary-treasurer; and Charles H. Babcock, Thurmond Chatham, and Richard J. Reynolds, II, directors.

This final note is written August 24th, and our local club is again showing some life. We show a moving picture and have a bird talk and discussion next week at the Forsyth Tubercular Sanitorium, one of our four club sanctuaries. Bill Anderson, Bill Chance, and Fred Hill, our active field men, will likely return from service by Christmas and we will take a fresh hold.

HENRY MAGIE, President.

BOONE BIRD CLUB: The club met Saturday afternoon, March 17, at the home of Mrs. R. K. Bingham on Blowing Rock road, the president, Mrs. Mack Luttrell, presiding. Mrs. M. W. Burwell announced the decision of the judges, Dr. R. C. Busted and Miss Mary Belle Ledbetter, in the ornithology essay contest sponsored in Watauga county by the Boone Bird Club. The winners were: Miss Sadie Triplett, Blowing Rock, first prize, a copy of *Birds of North Carolina*; and Miss Margaret Mordecai, Blowing Rock, second prize, which was \$2.50 in war stamps. The prizes were presented by Mayor Gordon Winkler, and the winning essays were entered in the state-wide competition sponsored by the N. C. Academy of Science.

MRS. M. W. BURWELL, Vice-President.

With the Colors

V-J DAY: ". . . Thousands of our boys have gone to honored graves because of their steadfastness in time of severe trial in the face of this fanatical enemy. Let us in this supreme moment of Victory, in all humbleness, thank Almighty God that this wasteful conflict is ended. And let us—all of us—dedicate ourselves to the task of peace that lies ahead, resolved that the dead of this war shall not have died in vain . . ."—Excerpt from Capt. Wm. Angwin's remarks at the service which he conducted at the U. S. Naval Special Hospital, at Asheville, N. C., on Sunday, August 19.

A LETTER FROM PFC. GEORGE KENT—36180177, Med. Det. 967, A.A.A. Gun. Bn., A.P.O. 72, care of Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif., contains some information which will interest other members of the N. C. Bird Club. Kent, who has been for several years a member of the Inland Bird Banding Association, banded, before the present war, several thousand birds of some 65 different species, in Illinois and Michigan, and had numerous interesting recoveries of birds which he had banded. After induction into the army, he was sent to Arkansas for basic training, then to Florida, and to North Carolina for maneuvers, and then back to Florida. In 1942 he was transferred to North Carolina, and was stationed first at Camp Butner, near Durham, and then at Camp Mackall, in the southern part of the state. During the nearly two years Kent spent in North Carolina, he joined the N. C. Bird Club in order to follow his hobby of bird study. After leaving North Carolina, he was transferred several times to various parts of the United States before finally sailing, in the fall of 1944, for the southwest Pacific, going first to New Guinea, later to the Solomons, and then to the Philippines, as a surgical technician in a Medical Detachment attached to an anti-aircraft battalion. Before reaching the Philippines, his

overseas time was spent in jungles, where he saw many birds which he was unable to identify. He writes: "Some of those I could (identify) were the cockatoos and several kinds of paroquets—red, green, blue, and such. Besides the birds there were many beautiful butterflies, some very large. In the northern Solomons there were also large bats—three or four feet in wing spread, with a very lazy flight compared with the smaller ones. The lizards were of all colors and sizes, the largest nearly four feet long. This may sound strange, but nevertheless it is all true. I don't believe my eyes were deceiving me. Since coming to the Philippines we have moved into comparative civilization away from the jungle, and with it the birds, although you do find occasional cockatoos and paroquets. I have written to a friend for a book of this region and hope to hear about it soon. Perhaps after I can identify the birds I will have more to say."

CPL. JOE JONES EDITS SERVICE PUBLICATION: Cpl. Joe P. Jones, 34+66198, Hq., H.D.C.B., Fort Monroe, Va., is now editor of P-EM, a neatly printed fortnightly publication for the enlisted personnel of Fort Monroe and the Coast Artillery School, and in a recent number of P-EM we note an article about the birds which nest inside the moated part of the Fort, an area of about fifty acres with very little cover, but with many live-oaks and poplars. There is also an account of an incident, claimed to be really true, which happened two or three years ago when General Drum was at the Fort with an inspection party. It seems that a flock of Laughing Gulls, which commonly feed at a nearby pond, laid down a barrage during the inspection, that scored no direct hits, though there were several near misses. Then the flock added insult to near-injury by bursting out with their cackling "laughter."

Report of N. C. Bird Club Sanctuary Chairman

Dr. Brewer, manager of the Veterans' Administration at Oteen, wrote for information on making a bird sanctuary on the grounds of the Oteen hospital. Dr. Brewer stated: "Our grounds are very large, much in natural woodland. We wish to intensify bird interest as we feel it will be a splendid form of occupation and diversion for young men and women where illness enforces long bed rest. We have read of your work and we would like very much to enlist your assistance and that of the North Carolina Bird Club in this venture."

The Asheville Bird Club has taken over the supervision of the sanctuaries at the Moore General Hospital and Veterans' Administration. Capt. Wm. A. Angwin, president of the Asheville club, writes that the committee member from the Asheville Bird Club for the Moore General Bird Sanctuary is Mrs. E. S. Koon. Colonel Wilson, commanding officer at Moore Hospital, has appointed Major E. W. Rothermel, of Rehabilitation Department, as his representative for bird sanctuary work. Lieutenant West, a WAC officer, is one of the Major's assistants. Mrs. James Gerald Cowan has been appointed as the Asheville Club's liaison member for the sanctuary at Veterans' Administration, Oteen, to work with Miss Helen Taylor of the Recreation Department.

Sanctuary work at the Moore General Hospital, at Swannanoa, will be continued as workmen are available. Mrs. Koon writes that she expects to make a planting of berried shrubs at Moore Hospital this fall. Miss Garnet Myers' Third Grade, at Henderson, has added \$3.00 to the Moore Sanctuary Fund. The sanctuary fund, \$140.00, has been turned over to the N. C. Bird Club treasurer. Last February, your Sanctuary Chairman wrote to the owner of Oteen Nursery about trees and other plants for the Sanctuary. Special rates were offered the N. C. Bird Club.

GRACE ANDERSON, N.C.B.C. Sanctuary Chairman.

Some Notes on Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne"

H. H. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

PART IV (Conclusion)

With reference to the black-winged stilt (*Himantopus*, *Linnaeus*) we have the following: "In the last week of last month (late April, 1779), five of these most rare birds, too uncommon to have attained an English name, but known to naturalists by the terms *himantopus*, etc., were shot upon the verge of Frinchan Pond . . . in the County of Surrey. The pond-keeper said there were three brace (six) in the flock; but after having satisfied his curiosity, he suffered the sixth to remain unmolested. One of these specimens I procured, but I found the length of the legs to be so extraordinary that at first sight, one might have supposed that the shanks had been fastened on it to impose on the credulity of the beholder."

This bird, "when drawn and stuffed with pepper" weighed only four and a quarter ounces. In comparing it with a four-pound male flamingo, he finds that the latter, if equipped with legs in proportion to those of the stilt, would have to strut around on legs ten feet in length. "Such a monstrosity," he says, "as the world has never seen." But White was evidently unfamiliar with the mathematical formula that the mass of like solid bodies varies with the cube of their like parts, which in this case makes the comparative length of the legs in the two species correspond very closely with the weights of the two birds.

To indicate how thoroughly White had allowed an obsession to cloud his usual clear thinking, here is a paragraph, from near the close of his ornithological notes, regarding his ideas on the subject the hibernation of the local martins: "I have only to add that were the bushes, which cover some acres, and are not on my property, to be grubbed and carefully examined, probably those late broods, and perhaps the whole aggregate body of the house-martins of this district, might be found there, in different secret dormitories; and that so far from withdrawing into warmer climes; that they never depart three hundred yards from the village."

He is a little obscure at times, and it would appear, though no quotation marks make the supposition definite, that the following suggestion was made to him, and is not his own: "Providence has been so indulgent as to allow us but one venomous reptile kind in these kingdoms, and that is the viper. As you propose the good of mankind to be the object of your publications, you will not omit to mention common salad oil as a sovereign remedy against the bits of the viper." Anti-venom serums were a long way off in White's day.

"When I wrote you last year on reptiles," he says, "I wish I had not forgot to mention the faculty snakes have of stinking *se defendendo*. I know a gentleman who kept a tame snake, which was in its person as sweet as any animal while in good humor and unalarmed; but as soon as a stranger or a dog or a cat, came in, it fell to hissing, and filled the room with such nauseous effluvia as rendered it hardly supportable. Thus the skunk, or stonck, of Ray's 'Synopsis of Quadropeds,' is an innocuous and sweet animal; but when pressed hard by dogs and men, it can eject such a most pestilent and fetid smell, that nothing can be more horrible."

The short paragraph that follows may be of interest to some trinomialists: "A gentleman sent me recently a fine specimen of *lanius minor cinerascens cum macula in scapula alba*, Raii, which is a bird, that at the time of your publishing your first two volumes of British Zoology, I find you had not seen."

Something for the botanist to chew on: "In heavy fogs, on elevated situations especially, trees are perfect alembics; and no one who has not attended to such matters can imagine how much water one tree can distill in a night's time, by condensing the vapor, which trickles down the twigs and boughs, so as to make the ground below quite in a float. In Newton Lane, in October, 1775, on a misty day, a particular oak in leaf dropped so fast that the carway stood in puddles and the ruts ran with water, though the ground in general was dusty. . . . Trees perspire profusely, condense largely, and check evaporation so much, that woods are always moist; no wonder, therefore, that they contribute much to pools and streams." Rather a mix-up, that!

"The standing objection to botany," says White, "always has been that it is a pursuit that amuses the fancy and exercises the memory, without improving the mind or advancing any real knowledge; and when the science is carried no farther than a mere systematic classification, the charge is but too true. But the botanist who is desirous of wiping off this aspersion should be by no means content with a list of names; he should philosophically investigate the laws of vegetation, he should examine the powers and virtues of efficacious herbs, he should promote their cultivation, and graft the gardener, the planter, and the husbandman, on the phytologist. Not that system is by any means to be thrown aside; without system the field of nature would be a pathless wilderness; but system should be subservient to, and not the main object of, pursuit."

"Shifting back to his favorite study, he says: "A good ornithologist should be able to distinguish birds by their air as well as by their colors and shape; on the ground as well as on the wing; and in the bush as well as in the hand. For, though it must not be said that any species of bird has

a manner peculiar to itself, yet there is somewhat in each genus at least that at first sight discriminates them and enables a judicious observer to pronounce upon them with some certainty."

In the matter of the courage and fighting qualities of a species of thrush during the nesting period, I can call to mind that we kids had experiences that made us a little more careful than was usually the case, in taking the eggs of the mistle-thrust. So far as I remember, I never found a nest of this species except in an apple-tree. This is the largest of the British thrushes, measuring about eleven inches in total length, and rather heavily built, for a thrush. White pays it a high tribute for courage and pugnacity in protecting its nests: "The missel-thrush is, while breeding, fierce and pugnacious, driving such birds as approach his nest with great fury to a distance. He suffers no magpie, jay or blackbird to enter the garden where he haunts; and so, for the time, a good guard to the new-sown legumes. In general, he is very successful in the defence of his family; but once I observed in my garden, that several magpies came determined to storm the nest of a missel-thrush; the dams defended their mansion with great vigor, and fought resolutely *pro aris et focis*; but numbers at last prevailed, they tore the nest to pieces and swallowed the young alive."

Many, if not most, of those old village churches in England were equipped with a "peal," or chime, of bells, rung by hand, of course. White submits an interesting episode relating to those in Selborne Church. "The old bells, three in number, loud and out of tune, were taken down in 1735, and cast into four; to which Sir Simon Stuart, baronet, added a fifth at his own expense; and bestowing it in the name of his favorite daughter, Mrs. Mary Stuart. The day of the arrival of this peal was observed as a high festival by the village, and rendered more joyous by an order from the donor that the treble ball should be fixed bottom-up on the ground and filled with punch, of which all present were permitted to partake."

To indicate the excess of formality used in closing a letter in those days of a century and a half ago, I am submitting the closing phraseology of the last of White's letters:

"And, as the length of my correspondence has sufficiently put your patience to the test, I shall here take a respectful leave of you and natural history together, and am,

With all due deference and regard,

Your most obliged and most humble servant,

Selborne, June 25, 1785.

GIL. WHITE."

A fitting end to these random notes!

Field Notes and News

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH: On July 14, 1945, I found a Barn Swallow's nest with three eggs under the bridge at Wrightsville. There were some more nests but I was unable to examine their contents.

JOHN COFFEY.

BIRDS KILLED ON ALBEMARLE BRIDGE: The four foot side rails on the Albemarle Sound Bridge, on N. C., route 32, serve as roosts for flocks of birds gathering for migration during August and early September, and cars and trucks passing over this bridge at night and also during the day kill thousands of these birds. Sometimes the roadway, particularly at the southern (Washington county) end, is literally covered with their little bodies. A correspondent from eastern North Carolina suggests that this pitiful slaughter might be avoided if the Highway Commission would erect 20-ft. poles along the railings and string wires along them for roosts.

SOUTHPORT: Among the 36 species of birds observed here on July 15th, between 8:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m., weather rainy, were the following: Hudsonian Curlew (8); Spotted Sandpiper; Willet (10); Herring Gull; Laughing Gull; Common Tern; Least Tern; Florida Nighthawk; Fish Crow; Wayne's Long-billed Marsh Wren (5); Boat-tailed Grackle; Seaside Sparrow (8). These Florida Nighthawks are noticeably smaller than our variety in the Piedmont, even to the unaided eye. The first evening I saw one, I mistook it for a Purple Martin, until I saw the wing stripes. The song seems weaker than that of the Greensboro birds.

T. L. ZAPP.

ASHEVILLE: *White-crowned Sparrows*—On May 4, 1945, at 6:45 p. m., a male White-crowned Sparrow was noted in my garden. On the afternoon of May 5th, the male was joined by a female. These two birds were seen daily thereafter for two or three days, the male coming frequently to the window-box for food, where we had an opportunity for very close observation. The female was not seen after the 7th, and the male was last seen at 7:45 on the evening of May 9th. The White-crowns associated themselves with the White-throats and all left on the same day. This note is presented in view of Mr. Burleigh's observations quoted in "Birds of North Carolina," giving the latest date of the appearance of White-crowned Sparrows as April 29th in the Mills River Valley near Asheville. *Purple Finches*.—At some times at least, Purple Finches are more common in the vicinity of Asheville than is usually supposed. In the winter of 1943-44, my records show that the first Purple Finch arrived in the garden on December 12, 1943, and during the spring, the number gradually increased until on April 5th, and again on April 14th, I counted between 50 and 60 Purple Finches in the garden. By April 28th, all the adult males had disappeared, leaving immatures (or females), the last of which left on May 11, 1944. In the 1945 season, Purple Finches first appeared on December 2, 1944. The largest count was 22 in mid-April. By April 29, 1945, all adult males had disappeared, leaving only immatures. These gradually got less and less, and the last one was noted on May 11, 1945, the same date as recorded in 1944.

W. A. ANGWIN, Capt. (M. C.), U. S. N.

WILMINGTON, N. C.: We had a sort of major catastrophe out here at Lake Forest during the early summer. Just after the warblers, red-wings, grackles, and Orchard Orioles had hatched their young, and while they were still unable to fly the Park Commission had a chance to get some POW labor to help with mosquito control, and instead of spraying as usual, they pulled down all the low hanging moss, cut out decayed and dead trees, trimmed off the young cypress shoots, cut all the growth around the lake and dug out all the reeds along the edge. The stray cats had a Roman holiday with the defenseless young! Children picked them up and fondled them to death. It was sickening. I tried to stop it but it was too late.

Gregor Rohwer, my ornithologist, almost popped a blood vessel. This lake has been here for untold years undisturbed and this has to happen just as we start a bird club.

EDNA LANIER APPLEBERRY.

HORNED LARKS NEST AT HICKORY: About June 27, the nest of a pair of Horned Larks was discovered at the Hickory, N. C., airport, between the driveway to the hangars and one of the runways. Hundreds of people were at the airport to see about forty Navy planes that had come to escape the coastal storm, and the nest was found behind one of the planes when they had lined up after landing. Someone immediately marked the location to protect the nest, where the parent birds were feeding four nestlings. Several of the Hickory Bird Club members received calls regarding the birds, and from observation of the nest and the two parent birds, I identified them as Horned Larks, possibly northern. In a communication to the local paper, Rev. H. D. Althouse, the president of our local club, described them as Prairie Horned Larks. After another look at the birds, I am inclined to agree with Dr. Althouse, although when I went back, it was late in the afternoon and I had trouble in getting a good look at them; but I feel sure that the male bird had the white markings about the face that distinguish the Prairie from the Northern subspecies. I thought this worthy of report as these birds are rarely seen here even as occasional winter visitors, and only a few instances have been noted of their nesting in North Carolina. It was my first time to see any kind of Horned Larks and to know them as such.

J. WESTON CLINARD.

BEAUFORT, N. C.: During August, 1945, I spent several days at Beaufort, at the Carolina Marine Laboratory of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury and myself made several trips to observe the birds of the region. The following is a complete list of the 52 species we identified on a trip, by boat and land, about 12 miles past Harker's Island to Cape Lookout, on July 25th: Brown Pelican (3); American Egret; Snowy Egret; Louisiana, Little Blue, and Black-crowned Night Herons; Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture; Bob-white; Semi-palmated Plover (6); Black-bellied Plover (2); Ruddy Turnstone (1); Hudsonian Curlew (7); Spotted Sandpiper (2); Western Sandpiper (12); Semi-palmated Sandpiper; Sanderling (30); Laughing Gull; Common Tern (3); Least Tern; Caspian Tern (3); Black Skimmer; Dove; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Chuck-wills-widow; Nighthawk; Chimney Swift; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Kingbird; Crested Flycatcher; Purple Martin; Fish Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Migrant Shrike; Starling; White-eyed Vireo; Red-eyed Vireo; Prairie Warbler; English Sparrow; Meadowlark; Cardinal; Painted Bunting; Towhee (Alabama?—White-eyed?); Field Sparrow. On a trip the following day, August 26, on a trip across the harbor to the sand flats, Bird Shoal and Town Marsh, in front of Beaufort, the following species were added: Piping Plover (2); Herring Gull, Black Tern, and Boat-tailed Grackle. On August 29, with George A. Smith, also from Greensboro, we made a trip along the mud flats near the rock breakwater projecting toward Fort Macon, between the Beaufort and Morehead City channels, and added the following species of shore and "near-shore" birds: Double-crested Cormorant (2); Green Heron; Wilson's Plover (17); Greater Yellowlegs (1); Ring-billed Gull; and Seaside Sparrow; following are the numbers of various other species of shore birds we observed on this same trip: Piping Plover (5); Semi-palmated Plover (20); Black-bellied Plover (2); Semi-palmated Sandpiper (9); Western Sandpiper (15); and scores of Sanderlings.

THOMAS L. ZAPP.

GREENSBORO: Spring Count. May 5, 1945, 8:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. Area in and around Greensboro, approximately same as Christmas counts, except Pinecroft,

and including Greensboro College and Woman's College campuses; Irving Park and Latham Park residential areas; Airport and Guilford College; Starmount and Municipal golf courses; Lakes Daniel, Cone (New), Brandt, Scales, Benjamin, Hamilton, Sharpe, Buffalo, Philadelphia, and White Oak, the R. D. Douglas and Richardson estates, and the Greensboro country park. Birds observed: Common Loon (4); Double-crested Cormorant (2); Great Blue Heron; Blue-winged Teal; Wood Duck (2); Lesser Scaup; Red-breasted Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks, Osprey (10); Sparrow Hawk; Bob-white; Semipalmated Plover (2); Killdeer; Woodcock (1); Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers; Lesser Yellowlegs; Least Sandpiper; Ring-billed Gull (3); Dove; Screech and Great-horned Owls; Chuck-wills-widow (1); Whip-poor-will; Nighthawks; Swift (598); Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Flicker; Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers; Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher; Phoebe; Acadian Flycatcher; Wood Pewee; Tree, Bank, Rough Winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows; Purple Martin; Blue Jay; Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches; House and Carolina Wrens; Mockingbird; Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Robin; Wood, Hermit, and Olive-backed Thrushes; Veery; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Cedar Waxwing; Shrike; Starling; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, and Red-eyed Vireos; Black and White, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Parula, Yellow, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Yellow-throated, Black-poll, Pine, and Prairie Warblers; Oven-bird; Louisiana Water-thrush, Maryland Yellow-throat; Chat; Hooded Warbler; Redstart; English Sparrow; Bobolink (12); Meadowlark; Red-wing; Orchard Oriole; Purple Grackle; Scarlet (2) and Summer (39) Tanagers; Cardinal; Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; Goldfinch (1,289); Red-eyed Towhee; Savannah, Grasshopper, and Bachman's Sparrows; Carolina Junco; Chipping, Field, White-throated (113), Swamp, and Song (6) Sparrows. Total, 123 species. Observers: John Carr, Inez Coldwell, Billy Craft, Mrs. Floyd Hugh Craft, Larry Crawford, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Bob Holmes, Sarah Leslie, J. E. Maxey, Hugh Medford, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Perrett, Mrs. Edith Settan, Etta Schiffman, Mr. and Mrs. Archie D. Shaftesbury, Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Swart, Mrs. Nina D. Tyner, Mrs. Margaret Wall, Tom Zapf.

RALEIGH: Spring Census, May 5, 1945, 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Cold, cloudy day with considerable wind. Territory covered: Lakes Raleigh and Johnson, Catholic Orphanage, garden and nearby fields, Lassiter's Mill, Swift Creek, Yates Pond, Boneyard Lake, Boone's Pond, Pullen Park, Fair Grounds, and the grounds of some city residences. Birds observed: Great Blue Heron; Green Heron; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, adult on Boone's pond; Mallard; Golden-eye, 1 f on Lake Raleigh; Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture; Cooper's Hawk; Osprey, 3; Sparrow Hawk; Bob-White; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Solitary Sandpiper; Lesser Yellowlegs, 2; Dove; Whip-poor-will; Swift; Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Flicker; Red-headed, Red-Bellied, and Downy Woodpeckers; Kingbird; Crested Flycatcher; Phoebe; Wood Pewee; Rough-winged Swallow; Barn Swallow; Blue Jay; Crow; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches; House and Carolina Wrens, Mockingbird; Catbird; Thrasher; Robin; Wood Thrush; Veery; Bluebird; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed Vireos; Black and White, Parula, Yellow, Myrtle, Pine, Prairie, Blackpoll, and Yellow Palm Warbler (the last an unusually later Record—Overing); Ovenbird; Maryland Yellowthroat; Chat; Hooded and Wilson's Warblers (a pair of last—Wray); Redstart; Bobolink; Redwing; Meadowlark; Orchard Oriole; English Sparrow; Scarlet and Summer Tanagers; Cardinal; Rose-breasted Grosbeak (6 m, 1 f in mulberry tree—Overing); Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; Goldfinch; Towhee; Savannah; Grasshopper, Chipping, Field, and White-throated

Sparrows. Total, 84 species. Observers: C. H. Bostian, C. S. Brimley, John Coffey, Jr., Robert Cooper, Mrs. Charlotte H. Green, Leo Heartt, Jr., F. B. Meacham, Jo Ann Meacham, Earnest Mitchell, Norman McCulloch, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Overing, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Strickland, William Teague, D. L. Wray.

MOUNT OLIVE: Spring Count, April 28, 1945, 4:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Area 15 miles in diameter, including Jones' Mill Pond, Williamson's land, Wooten farm, around city; cypress swamp 30%, open field 10%, woodland 45%, grain fields, 15%. Clear in morning, but light rain from 2 o'clock on. Birds observed: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 1; American Egret, 4; Little Blue Heron, 5; Green Heron, 3; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Wood Duck, 4; Turkey Vulture, 2; Black Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Osprey, 2; Bob-white, 7; Killdeer, 2; Spotted Sandpiper, 11; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Dove, 55; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Chuck-wills-widow, 4; Whip-poor-will, 2; Nighthawk, 2; Chimney Swift, 201; Hummingbird, 4; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-Headed Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 2; Kingbird, 20; Crested Flycatcher, 9; Acadian Flycatcher, 7; Wood Pewee, 11; Tree Swallow, 4; Barn Swallow, 13; Purple Martin, 17; Blue Jay, 22; Crow, 14; Carolina Chickadee, 12; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; Carolina Wren, 11; Mockingbird, 17; Catbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 5; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 5; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 22; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 19; Cedar Waxwing, 29; Loggerhead Shrike, 8; Starling, 13; White-eyed Vireo, 12; Yellow-throated Vireo, 10; Red-eyed Vireo, 19; Black and White Warbler, 4; Prothonotary Warbler, 21; Parula Warbler, 11; Yellow Warbler, 2; Black-throated Blue W., 1; Myrtle W., 52; Yellow-throated W., 1; Pine W., 16; Prairie W., 8; Louisiana Water Thrush, 1; Kentucky W., 1; Maryland Yellowthroat, 5; Chat, 6; Hooded W., 8; Redstart, 3; English Sparrow, 300 (est.); Meadowlark, 3; Red-wing, 25; Orchard Oriole, 1; Purple Grackle, 2; Summer Tanager, 7; Cardinal, 18; Indigo Bunting, 1; Towhee, 12; Bachman's Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 5; Field Sparrow, 22; White-throated Sparrow, 10. Total, 88 species. Seen during preceding week: Bald Eagle, 1; Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Goldfinch, 2. Observers: Larry Crawford, Bob Holmes.

GREAT BLUE HERON DIVES. On Dec. 17, 1944, we were out at Lake Raleigh observing birds and a Great Blue Heron was flushed from the side of the lake. It flew out over the lake gradually climbing upwards till it was some 30 feet above the lake. It then paused for a second or two, turned its wings back above its body and came down almost vertically into the water and striking it, disappeared in a cloud of spray. This part of the performance was seen by Norman and John, not by Mrs. Simpson. When she saw the splash she thought it must have been an osprey although the other two were telling her that the "Great Blue Heron dives." When the spray allowed the bird to be seen she thought at first it was a loon, and was almost shocked to see a Great Blue fly up out of the water and head across the lake to the same side from which it had come, flying so low that the tips of its wings touched the water at every flap for quite a distance. This seems to be quite an unusual piece of behavior for a heron and well worth recording.

NORMAN MCCULLOCH, JR., JOHN COFFEY, JR., Raleigh, N. C.;
MRS. R. C. SIMPSON, Washington, D. C.

WOLF IN FEATHERS? or, They didn't know Rinso. According to *Time* (Aug. 27, 1945), Gloucester, N. J., police investigating women drivers' complaints of wolfish whistles at a certain intersection, flushed a nearby covey of quail.

Questions and Answers

G. F. SHEPHERD, JR., AND PHILLIPS RUSSELL, CHAPEL HILL

How can one tell warblers apart in the field in fall migrations?

The experts have trouble here and often have to rely on a laboratory examination for final identity. Allow me to quote four laws from Chapman's *Warblers of North America*.

1. When the adults are alike or nearly alike in plumage, the young in first fall plumage resemble their parents in spring plumage. (Example, Prothonotary Warbler.)
2. When the adults in breeding plumage differ, the young of both sexes resemble either the breeding female or the adults in the fall. (Example, Myrtle Warbler.)
3. When the sexes are alike, or nearly alike, in color, the fall plumage of both (the adults) is generally like the spring plumage. (Example, Prothonotary Warbler.)
4. When the male in spring plumage differs from the female, he generally resembles her in fall plumage. (Example, Black-poll Warbler.)

Even these laws will not keep one from plenty of errors in the field in the fall. The plates in the revised edition of *Birds of North Carolina* or Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* will aid some. Personally I think the best help is to remember all the pictures possible and then work closely with detailed books such as those of Frank Chapman: *The Warblers of North America*, and *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America*.

What autumn bird activities would you recommend for a shut-in?

Have a feeding shelf set up just outside the nearest window. Furnish it with crumbs, grain, chick feed, cornbread, and sunflower seed, not forgetting suet and water. Then keep a record of the first winter arrivals like the White-throat and other Sparrows, the Junco, Brown Creeper, Golden-crown and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and others. Also note the dates of last appearance of the summer birds like the Catbird, Summer Tanager, Brown Thrasher, and Hummingbird. Not enough is known about the time of arrival and departure of our common birds.

With the Editor

N. C. BIRD CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET: According to plans made at their meeting at Raleigh last May, the Executive Committee expects to meet in Charlotte on Saturday, October 6, together with a representative from each local bird club. Call your local president and be sure your club is represented. Among other things to be discussed are plans—and a place—for the 1946 Spring Meeting. Boone, Asheville, Hickory, and Lenoir have already been suggested, so it seems likely that the meeting will be in the western part of the state, though I know of no formal invitations. Send your requests by your representative to the Executive Committee meeting in Charlotte, or write or telegraph them to Miss Nancy Eliason, Secretary, N. C. Bird Club, 140 East Sharp Street, Statesville, N. C., or to some other member of the executive committee.

PHOTOS OF BIRD HOUSES WANTED: We plan an article on nesting boxes in an early number of THE CHAT, possibly November, and would like to have some photographs of bird houses, preferably occupied. Send us good sized glossy prints or negatives carefully wrapped and labeled. Address, A. D. Shaftesbury, Editor, THE CHAT, W.C.U.N.C., Greensboro, N. C.

PIGEONS BANISHED FROM PHILADELPHIA: "Tramps and transient pigeons, together with those that have fattened in public squares and on highways, are forthwith and hereafter banished from Philadelphia." This is the recent order of that

city's director of public health, Dr. Rufus A. S. Reeves, who explained that nearly half of Philadelphia's pigeon population has been found to be infected with ornithosis, a contagious disease similar to, or quite possibly identical with psittacosis (parrot fever). We wonder just how the pigeons have reacted to the banishment order.

INFORMATION WANTED: We hope to publish in an early issue of *THE CHAT* a list of the bird sanctuaries—Federal, State, Municipal, Institutional, and Private—in North Carolina. How about dropping us a card or letter with the information regarding sanctuaries in which you are interested or which you know about. Include, if possible, date of establishment, extent, establishing and co-operating individuals and agencies, brief history of the sanctuary, and a statement of its development and results. Please send this information at once to: Editor, *THE CHAT*, W. C. U. N. C., Greensboro, N. C.

MOTION PICTURES OF BIRDS: In the January, 1945, issue of *THE CHAT* (v. IX, p. 10), mention was made of several sources from which 16 mm. moving pictures of birds, suitable for use in schools and various civic, religious, and social groups and clubs, are available for rent to responsible individuals. Here are two additional sources from which some excellent films have been secured at various times by Greensboro's Piedmont Bird Club: American Nature Association, 1214 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., has for rent several good 16 mm. silent black and white motion pictures of nature and outdoors; and the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Section of Visual Education, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ills., has for loan, for payment of shipping expenses, excellent moving pictures of birds and other wildlife, many in color.

HIGH FLIERS COLLIDE: Capt. V. H. Brown, of the American Air Lines, writing in the January, 1945, issue of *The Auk* (the quarterly journal published by the American Ornithologists' Union), states that a 12½-ton Douglas transport, which he was flying at 4:30 a. m., August 11, 1944, at about a thousand or twelve hundred feet above the ground, in the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio, struck a bird which cracked the windshield badly. Feathers remaining on the windshield wiper were later identified at the American Museum of Natural History as those of the American Goldfinch, which is known to be a relatively high flyer, especially in migration. From the injury to the windshield, Captain Brown estimated that a force of approximately 100 pounds was exerted over the small area of impact. Collisions between birds and planes are reported by United States airlines pilots about twice a week, according to *Time* (Nov. 6, 1944, p. 50-51.) They can dent the fuselage, or cause more serious trouble to wing tips or motor, but the chief danger seems to be a broken windshield. In October, 1944, according to *Time*, a DC-3 nearly crashed in Iowa when a duck came through the windshield and knocked out the pilot, and the co-pilot saved the plane. Duck strikes are most frequent, but certain heavier birds are more feared by flyers. A 10-pound goose or a 20-pound swan flying at 50 M.P.H., and collidnig with a 200 M.P.H. airplane, can do serious damage. Airmen and pilots alike think that bird collisions may have been responsible for some unsolved air disasters. In the October, 1944, *Air Transport*, Pat Curtin, a veteran airplane pilot, tells some of the airmen's stories of migrating birds. According to Curtin, most collisions occur at night or in clouds, when both planes and birds are flying blind. Birds' excellent sense of orientation or direction seem to enable them to fly even in "instrument weather." Pilots have found that old notions regarding the speed of birds are exaggerated. Airmen report that the top speed of ducks seems to be about 55 M.P.H.; the fastest known, swifts and duck hawks, probably do not go faster than 150 to 200 M.P.H. Migrating birds are said to fly commonly at less than 3,000 feet above ground level, but in getting over mountains, ducks have been known to reach 7,500 feet, and cranes and condors 20,000 feet. From India comes a report of a flock of geese photographed flying at 29,000 feet.

Some Notes of Interest to N. C. Bird Club Members and to the Local Bird Clubs

- A representative of each local bird club is to meet with the executive committee of the N. C. Bird Club in Charlotte, Saturday, October 6. If you have not elected or appointed your representative, by all means do so immediately, and notify Miss Clara Hearne, President N. C. Bird Club, Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

- Every school has co-operative principals and teachers, also many boys and girls eager to learn about their birds. Each local bird club has a capable speaker to present this fascinating study in short talks at prearranged periods. Try it. Many of the local clubs have already been rewarded with gratifying results.

- In the September issue of *North Carolina Education* there is to be a statement from the Education Committee of the North Carolina Bird Club informing all elementary teachers that they may obtain without cost material to aid them in presenting the study of birds in their classrooms by dropping a card to Dr. Carey Bostian, Chairman, Education Committee, N. C. Bird Club, Box 5636, Raleigh, N. C. Teachers who apply for this help will receive instructions for organizing school bird clubs and lists of books, pamphlets, slides, moving pictures, and other materials which are available, and beginning in October, will receive each month suggestions of a seasonal nature with news of what school clubs are doing all over the state. These monthly suggestions will emphasize birds but will also include information about the study of rocks and minerals, flowers, trees, insects, and other forms of plant and animal life.

- Presidents and Secretaries, or other representatives of each local group are urged to send in promptly to THE CHAT all news of local meetings and other activities. Typewrite if possible, or write legibly, on one side of the paper. Be careful to spell names correctly, and be sure to include correct initials and titles. And don't overlook the dates. When enclosing newspaper clippings, mark them plainly to show the name of the newspaper and its date.

- The Membership Committee of the North Carolina Bird Club is now beginning its campaign for new members for 1946. New memberships received now will be credited for the entire year 1946, and in addition, will receive the September and November 1945 CHAT free. If you need some membership blanks, drop a card to Mrs. Edith Settan, Chairman Membership Committee, N. C. Bird Club, 1043 West Market St., Greensboro, N. C. How about increasing the number of \$5.00 Supporting Members from your locality? The N. C. Bird Club could greatly increase its usefulness if more funds were available. Send all subscriptions and applications for membership to Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer N. C. Bird Club, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

- If your local bird club is not active, get together now and get your plans organized for the next twelve months. Organize your bird walks, and have a social meeting outdoors to start your fall work. Colored slides are available for use at little expense. For one meeting, trade speakers with a neighboring bird club, and ask our N. C. Bird Club President, Miss Hearne, to suggest as speaker a state bird club member in your section of the state, since travel restrictions have been eased some. Arrange for a speaker from the National Audubon Society—cost about \$35.00; charge a small admission if necessary. Organize a local sanctuary, or develop those—school, municipal, hospital, etc.—that you already have. Work with the N. C. Department of Agriculture, through their local biologist representative, to encourage the establishment of sanctuaries throughout your county. Encourage membership in the state bird club. Read the Club Notes and other items in THE CHAT—you will get ideas and suggestions which will help the work and interest of your local bird club.

LOCAL CLUBS AND THEIR OFFICERS

- Arden, Rosscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Major V. M. Shell, Arden; V-P—Mrs. H. B. Swope, Skyland; S-T—H. B. Swope, Skyland
- Asheville Bird Club: P—Capt. W. A. Angwin, U. S. N.; V-P—Arthur Brimley; S—Mrs. M. F. Meredith; T—Mrs. Francis E. Field.
- Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club: P—Miss Lena Reeves; V-P—Mrs. Joe Winkler
- Boone Bird Club: P—Mrs. Mack Luttrell; V-P—Mrs. W. M. Burwell and Mr. Norton; S-T—Miss Cora Jeffcoat.
- Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Dr. Maurice Whittinghill; V-P—Mrs. C. H. Pegg; S—Mrs. O. F. Jensen; T—Mrs. R. B. Sharpe.
- Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—B. Rhett Chamberlain, 1320 Biltmore Drive; V. P.—Sarah Nooe; S—Miss Margaret Coble, 1135 Buchanan St., T—Mrs. J. H. Stainback; Publicity Chairman—Mrs. G. C. Potter, 2111 Malvern Rd., Charlotte 4.
- Concord, Rex Brasher Bird Club.
- Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha B. Hopkins, 506 Buchanan Road; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.
- Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Edith Settan, 1043 W. Market St.; V-P—Mrs. George W. Perrett and Miss Sarah Lesley; Rec. S—Mrs. Floyd Hugh Craft; Cor. S—Miss Maude Adams, 317½ Tate St., Apt. 3; T—J. E. Maxey.
- Guilford College, T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club: P—Elizabeth Hare; V-P—J. G. Gilbert; S-T—Margery Pickett.
- Henderson Bird Club: P—Mrs. G. E. Rose; V-P—Mrs. E. B. Flanagan; S-T—Mrs. W. B. Daniel
- Hickory Bird Club: P—Dr. H. A. Althouse; V-P—Weston Clinard; S-T—Mrs. George E. Bisanar
- Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Fred H. May, 211 Beall St.; V-P—Thos. Parks; S—Miss May Puett, 512 West Harper St.
- Raleigh Bird Club: P—J. H. Slaughter, 525 N. Bloodworth St.; V-P—Mrs. A. J. Skaale; S-T—F. B. Meacham
- Roanoke Rapids Bird Club: P—Mrs. A. O. Pendleton, R. 1, Bolling Rd.; V-P—Mrs. C. E. Matthews; S—Miss Mary Hix, 536 Hamilton St.; T—Mrs. R. G. Knight
- Salisbury Bird Club.
- Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T. & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring
- Statesville Audubon Club: P—Mrs. J. Howard Smith; V-P—Miss Grace Anderson; S—Mrs. Stephen Blankenship; T—Mrs. Earl Davis
- Tryon Bird Club: P—G. H. Holmes; S-T—Katherine D. Hamilton
- Washington, Bughouse Laboratory: P—Sally Bogart; S-T—Elizabeth Shelton; Director, Joe Biggs
- Winston-Salem Bird Club: P—Henry Magie; S-T—Wm. S. Rothrock, 2434 Stockton St.; Directors—Charles H. Babcock, Thurmond Chatham, Jr., Richard J. Reynolds, II.

Winghaven

WILD BIRD SANCTUARY

BOBBY RUIZ

The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB



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The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*

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DR. C. S. BRIMLEY, *Associate Editor*

N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

The President's Message

The past few years have been difficult for individuals and organizations and all of us are conscious of this. Now that the fighting has ceased we are hoping for permanent peace in the truest sense. Along with our hopes there must be faith and works. The purpose of the North Carolina Bird Club must be kept in mind and I urge all members to renew their efforts that this purpose be realized.

Some local clubs have been inactive because of various war activities which have required their services. Many of our members have been in service. We are very grateful that many of them have returned and others will soon be returning to us. They have made observations of birds in foreign areas and in areas in the United States which will furnish interesting programs for local clubs. I urge you to use them.

There are service men in most communities who will need to regain their health before taking up their work again. Here is an opportunity for us to be of service to them. If you know of one who is interested in birds, talk with him and invite him to your meetings. Perhaps there are some who would become interested and who need just the stimulation that Nature provides through her feathered creatures. Read *Nature Helps* in August-September issue of the NATURE MAGAZINE and this will convince you that we can be of service.

The Charlotte meeting of the executive committee with local clubs representatives was an enthusiastic one and I regret that all couldn't be there. I am sure that this group represented the members back home and with this support we can and will move forward. I am grateful for the loyal support of the individual members, the officers and committees. Without this the progress of the Club would not have been possible.

A report of the Charlotte meeting is found elsewhere in *The Chat*, but I want to mention one item that was discussed. Last year I asked local clubs for an opinion on the establishment of a reserve fund. In their replies some wanted to know how the fund would be used. This would be decided by the Club after the members were of the opinion that such a fund would be desirable, and after worthwhile projects had been considered. Most organizations set up some kind of fund for special purposes and to meet emergencies. It is my opinion that we should do the same. We may be a long time reaching our objective but there has to be a beginning. We want to get opinions and suggestions as to how the fund should be raised and how it may be used. To start this thinking I am suggesting one way in which such a fund might be used. I would suggest that a Nature Center be established somewhere in the central part of the State. This

would take money of course, but we would not expect to accomplish this immediately. It would take several years. At the beginning it could be an area comprising woods, fields, and streams. Later a suitable house or cabin might be added which would serve as a museum to house various exhibits and collections which would be available to the North Carolina Bird Club members and our Junior Bird Clubs. I repeat that this is only a suggestion but I believe it is possible. Think it over. I hope every members will give serious consideration to the matter of a Reserve Fund and write me your opinion. The opinions will be discussed at our executive meeting in February.

CLARA HEARNE, President North Carolina Bird Club

News of the Local Clubs

HENDERSON BIRD CLUB: The Henderson Bird Club under the leadership of Mrs. T. C. Gill, of Gill's Acres, President; J. C. Tilgham, of Bird Lodge, Vice-president, and Mrs. S. R. Harris, Jr., Secretary, had an excellent year although the continuous rain prevented the careful check-up of the southbound birds as has been planned. This special study of the fall migrating birds has been undertaken by the Henderson Club as one of its most important objectives in the years ahead. During the spring migration, Mrs. A. W. Bachman was usually in the field for several hours a day. Mr. Bachman, Miss Garnette Myers, Miss Mariel Gary, and others are working with Mrs. Bachman for more and better records for this area.

Three special meetings have been held. Last fall the state President, Miss Clara Hearne was guest and speaker at a supper held at Indian Head Lodge. In March Bert Harwell of the National Audubon Society visited Henderson and was greeted by a packed house of two hundred people. In May Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, of Charlotte, came to participate in a round of events—a field trip over the J. H. Brodie Red Bud Farm, supper for the Club at the home and sanctuary of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Rose, and meeting and informal reception at the Country Club where Mrs. Clarkson spoke to Club members and some of their friends.

The Club had its first Yearbook in 1944-45. It contributed charts to the Asheville Naval Hospital, and, in memory of Ruth Gill MacGregor, daughter of the Club President, several books were contributed to Henderson's Perry Library, which has an unusually large and well selected collection of books on birds. At the last meeting plans were discussed for developing the Henderson Municipal Sanctuary which was established in 1937.

CLAUDIA HUNTER.

HICKORY BIRD CLUB: At the September meeting, held on Thursday the thirteenth at the home of Weston Clinard, the tentative program for the coming year was submitted by the program chairman, Mrs. Katharine Vallotton. The coming programs will include a new feature with one or more members naming their favorite bird and giving a study of the bird, including their reasons for considering it a favorite. Original stories for the book being written by club members were contributed by Mrs. W. J. Shuford and Mrs. Vallotton. President Althouse added a variation to the program by reading the names given to American birds by the early Pennsylvania Dutch settlers. The names were translated into their literal meanings and club members were asked to give the names by which these birds are now known. Weston Clinard was named as delegate to the special executive board meet-

ing of the North Carolina Bird Club to be held in Charlotte on October 6th., and Arthur Moser was named as alternate. The meeting closed with a round-table discussion of bird experiences, in which Mrs. George Fuller, Mrs. Helen Springs Thomason, Miss Minnie Gwaltney, and others participated.

At the October meeting, held on the eleventh at home of Mrs. George Fuller, the program committee presented the new year-books, which had green covers attractively decorated with colored bird pictures and tied with red and white cords. Miss Minnie Gwaltney read excerpts from Ludlow Griscom's recently published book, "Modern Bird Study." Weston Clinard gave a report of the North Carolina Bird Club executive committee meeting held October 6th., at Wing Haven, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, in Charlotte, which he attended as delegate from the local club. A considerable part of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of an invitation for the Hickory Bird Club to meet in October with the Lenoir Audubon Club, with a suggested program of an exchange of ideas concerning the routine for study and entertainment in the club meetings, and the promotion of protection of wildlife.

J. W. CLINARD, Vice-president.

PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB: Greensboro's Piedmont Bird Club began its fall activities on Saturday, September 15th., with a bird walk held in Peabody Park and around the lake on the campus of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, followed by a basket picnic which, due to recent heavy rains, had to be held inside the Science building at Woman's College. In spite of the handicap of disagreeable weather a large and enthusiastic crowd was present. After the supper, Charles Farrell, who is secretary of the Guilford Wildlife Club, discussed some phases of wildlife in North Carolina, illustrating his remarks with beautiful colored moving pictures which he had made in eastern North Carolina.

Our October meeting, held on the evening of the eighteenth, was equally well attended, with more than 50 members present, and the program was furnished by two of our own members. Miss Inez Coldwell discussed wing and feet adaptations of birds and illustrated her subject with numerous slide pictures; and George A. Smith gave a summary of hawks, which is the Club's special study for the year. Mr. Smith pointed out particularly the characters for field identification of the types of hawks found in North Carolina, the accipiters, buteos, falcons and harriers, illustrating his talk with blackboard sketches and mounted specimens of hawks.

The fall field trips, organized by the field trip chairman, Miss Etta Schiffman, and conducted each Sunday afternoon, have been very successful and popular. Junior field trips with specially selected children from Greensboro's graded schools are conducted each Saturday afternoon by qualified adult leaders. Teacher representatives from the public schools, together with the Education and Sanctuary Committees of the Piedmont Bird Club have formulated plans for the cooperation of the public schools in furthering the Greensboro municipal sanctuary by a special five point program to develop each school ground as a special area for attracting and protecting birds. On Tuesday evening, January 8, 1946, at 8.00 P. M., in Aycock Auditorium of the Woman's College, the Piedmont Bird Club will present to Greensboro bird enthusiasts Alexander Sprunt, Jr., who will give a lecture, "From Coast to Crest," illustrated by colored moving pictures of birds, flowers, mammals, and insects, from Texas to the Yellowstone.

MRS. FLOYD HUGH CRAFT, Recording Secretary.

BIRD BATHS SHOULD BE CLEANED every day, and on cold days should be filled with warm water, is the practical suggestion of Rev. J. S. Williams, of The Mission of the Good Samaritan, at Asheville. He adds that it is a joy to see the birds splash on even the coldest days.

Dinner for Your Bird Neighbors



Capt. Wm. A. Angwin explains how a weather vane feeding box for wild birds works.

A bird a hundred feet away is only a bird, but a bird at arm's length on a feeding tray outside your window is a much more interesting bit of life to every member of your family. If you want to get acquainted with the birds winter is really the time to begin. Of course their colors are duller, but there are fewer to be identified. Too, their food is scarcer during the winter, especially insects that furnish the rich fuel to keep them

warm, so the birds are more easily coaxed to your yard or window, or, with patience, even to your hand, by means of bits of food.

One of the simplest means of attracting winter birds is by fastening one or more pieces of suet to tree trunks or limbs. The suet should be tied down with wire or coarse netting so the first squirrel or Jay will not carry away the entire piece. Chickadees will probably be the first to come, but others will soon follow. A window shelf feeder may be made of a board several inches wide fastened to your window sill. A strip of wood fastened around the edges will prevent the food from blowing off too easily. Some "store bought" feeders have two or three partitions for different kinds of food and a small dish for water.

An open box—really a tray with a roof—may be attached to a nearby tree, protected from the wind, or hung from a branch or wire to keep the squirrels away, or may be hung as a trolley on a wire and gradually moved closer to your window. Do not be impatient. Give the birds time to find the feeding place. Use only a moderate amount of food at a time, and after the birds start coming keep up the feeding regularly, particularly during bad winter weather.

A weather vane feeder, such as the one shown in the accompanying picture taken at the U. S. Naval Special Hospital at Asheville, is constructed on a pivot to swing the feeding box out of the wind and is very

attractive, but requires some skill with saw and hammer. Such feeders should be erected in an open space and high enough above the ground to afford safety from cats and squirrels.

During snowy or sleety weather the snow and ice should be regularly cleaned from your feeding stations, and plenty of food should be provided. During particularly bad weather ground feeding beneath protected bushes or brush piles will help the quail and other ground feeding birds. Water should be provided too, even in the coldest weather. Feed your birds regularly and plenty and you will have plenty of birds.

Fancier feeders are available from various dealers, and ready mixed wild bird feed can also be purchased. In the colder months many birds are not too choosy in the matter of food. Bread crumbs, biscuits, doughnuts, corn bread, dog biscuit, baked grits, bacon rinds and drippings, baked and raw apples, popcorn, lettuce, peanut butter, cabbage, carrots, and such will be relished. Suet and other fat seems particularly attractive to Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, and others. Other foods generally recommended include bird seed, chick feed, chopped raw peanuts and nut meats of all kinds, wheat, cracked corn, hemp, millet, pumpkin, squash, and sunflower seeds, dried wild berries, rolled oats, rice, cane seed, and dried currents. You will soon find that several of these have particular attraction for some of your bird neighbors. Try out different kinds and see which you have the most success with. Lard mixed with flour and a little stale peanut butter is a particularly successful combination which has been recommended by Mrs. O. F. Jenson, of Chapel Hill. A mixture of several varieties of seeds, crumbs, and chopped nuts, with about an equal quantity of melted suet or fat drippings may be used in small quantities pressed into cracks in the trunks of trees or molded into suet cakes and placed in several holes, an inch or so in diameter, bored in a rough stick which is hung by wire in a suitable place.

Putting out food for the winter birds is fun for us, but often a matter of life or death for the birds during cold snaps and sleety weather when the need for food is greatest. The comradeship and fun is enough to pay for the bill of fare, even if our wild birds weren't so important in keeping insect pests under control.

A. D. S.

BERT HARWELL TO BE AT ROANOKE RAPIDS: On December 3rd., is the announcement from the Roanoke Rapids Bird Club. With Harwell's entertainment, movies, and imitations they have a treat in store, and if you live near Roanoke Rapids and want to know the details as to place and time drop a card to the Roanoke Rapids Bird Club President, Mrs. A. O. Pendleton.

Thoreau and Birds

EDDIE W. WILSON, Cary, N. C.

Since 1945 marks the centennial anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's "experiment-in-living" at Walden Pond, in Concord, Massachusetts, it is our purpose to present an arrangement of quotations from his works expressive of his love and appreciation of birds. While he has been called an "erratic ornithologist" and certain of his "ornithological misapprehensions" have been cited from time to time, he was a genuine lover of birds and from them he received great pleasure.

At Walden, where Thoreau started his independent living and freedom of thought experiment on Independence Day, 100 years ago, he found himself "suddenly neighbor to the birds, not by having imprisoned one, but having caged myself near them. I was not only nearer to some of those which commonly frequent the garden and the orchard, but to those wilder and more thrilling songsters of the forest which never or rarely serenade a villager—the wood thrush, the veery, the scarlet tanager, the field sparrow, the whip-poor-will, and many others."

Here, on summer mornings, he sat in his "sunny doorway from sunrise till noon, rapt in a reverie . . . in undisturbed solitude and stillness, while the birds sang around or flitted noiseless through the house . . . Instead of singing like the birds, I silently smiled at my incessant good fortune. As the sparrow had its trill, sitting on the hickory before my door so had I my chuckle or suppressed warble which he might hear out of my nest . . . This was sheer idleness to my fellow-townsmen, no doubt; but if the birds and flowers had tried me by their standards, I should not have been found wanting." In the evenings, he was serenaded by the owls whereupon he rejoiced "that there are owls" as their hooting suggested "a vast and undeveloped nature which men have not recognized. They represent the stark twilight and unsatisfied thoughts which all have."

Thoreau says that he and the loon in Walden Pond—"the loon that laughs so loud"—were alike inasmuch as neither was lonely. One day, when hoeing, a sparrow alighted upon his shoulder, thus making him "more distinguished by that circumstance than I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn." And as he worked in his half-cultivated field, the brown thrasher gave "amateur Paganini performances . . . It was a cheap sort of top dressing in which I had entire faith."

Here, at Walden, he reflects: "There is some of the same fitness in a man's building his own house that there is in a bird's building its own nest . . . But alas! we do like cowbirds and cuckoos, which lay their eggs

in nests which other birds have built and cheer no traveller with their chattering and unmusical notes."

In *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, the birds one "showery and foggy day composed new strains . . . against the sunshine. What were the amusements of the drawing-room and the library in comparison, if we had them there?" Then, "Hunters on the Musketaquid River see numerous birds and many other wild and noble sights before night, such as they who sit in parlors never dream of." And finally as regards farming: "I would at least strike my spade into the earth with such careless freedom but accuracy as the woodpecker his bill into a tree."

In the Nature essay, "Natural History of Massachusetts," Thoreau refers to the fish hawk as "a great presence, as the master of river and forest," and he says that the crow "flits about the clearings like the dusky spirit of the Indian."

Thoreau's *Journal* contains numerous references to birds.

Once, while watching the return of the Canada geese, he sees them as "grenadiers of the air" and adds: "Man pygmifies himself at sight of these inhabitants of the air." These splendid creatures appear in March "with Napoleonic tactics, splitting the forces of winter." They choose certain locations for their homes, "not suspecting that greater geese than they have settled there." The flight of the Great Blue Heron seemed to "hush the hillside to silence." From the song sparrow comes "a little stream of song, cooling, rippling through the noon." The chickadees lisped and twittered "cheerfully to one another, with a reference to me, I think," their melody being "honest, homely, heartfelt." The wood thrush he found to be "a more modern philosopher than Plato and Aristotle. They are now a dogma, but he preaches the doctrine of the hour." He breathes "of immortal beauty and vigor. He deepens the significance of all things seen in the light of his strain. He sings to make men take higher and truer views of things. He sings to amend their institutions." Then later he writes: "All this is ripest and fairest in the wilderness and the wild man is preserved and transmitted to us in the strain of the wood thrush. It is the mediator between barbarism and civilization."

Thoreau marvelled at "how well suited" is "the lining of a bird's nest, not only for the comfort of the young, but to keep the eggs from breaking . . . Those tender and brittle things which you can hardly carry in cotton lie there without harm." Then, "what a gem is a bird's egg, especially a blue or green one, broken or whole, in the woods! I noticed a small blue egg this afternoon washed up by Flint's Pond and half buried

by white sand, and as it lay there, alternately wet and dry, no color could be fairer, no gem could have a more advantageous and favorable setting."

One could go on and on with such beautiful passages from America's greatest nature writer. Indeed, Henry David Thoreau loved and appreciated birds!

• Send in your field observations and records to THE CHAT. Much of such material is suitable for publication as permanent records, and occasional finds are particularly valuable. Be sure to include dates and localities and complete data with each record, and send in your notes promptly. Such material makes your CHAT much more valuable.

Breeding Records of Grasshopper Sparrows From Charlotte and Vicinity

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, Charlotte, N. C.

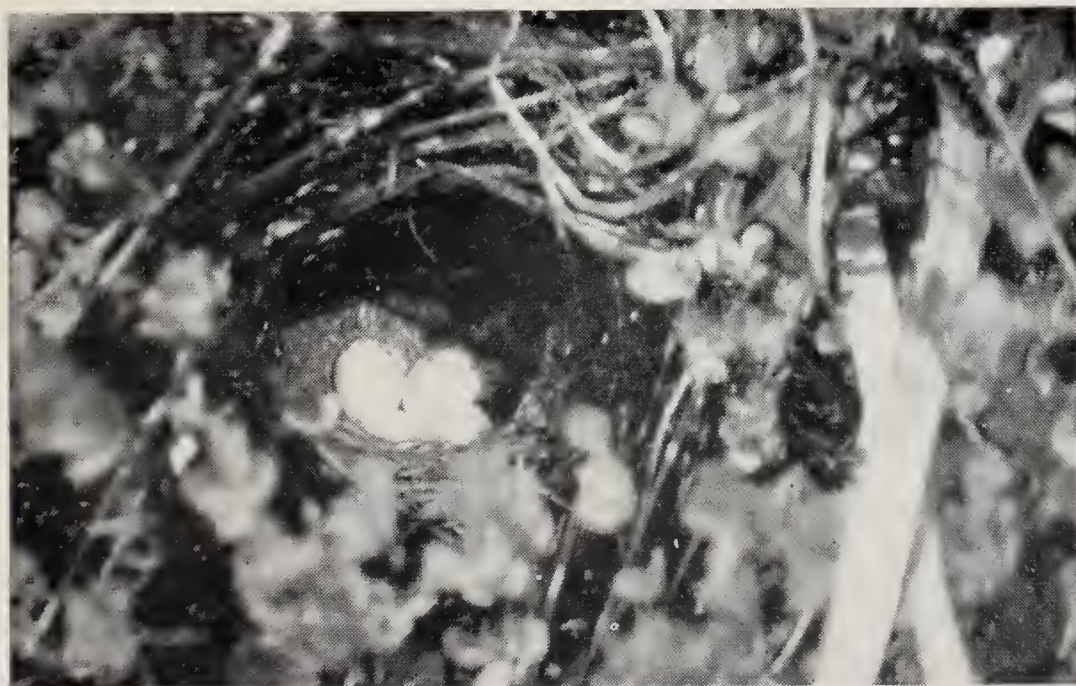
This year, Grasshopper Sparrows were first noticed within the city limits of Charlotte on April 1st. By April 12th several pairs had settled in an old field on high ground in the southeastern part of the city. I failed to find nests, but from May 21 to the middle of June I saw a great number of adults carrying food to nesting places. On May 26th I caught a fledgling that was being fed and took it home for observation over night. Early the next morning I returned it and saw an adult go to it. After mid-June most of the sparrows had left this particular area.

On April 11th, in an abandoned field about fifteen miles south of Charlotte, and within three or four miles of the South Carolina line, I located another nesting place of Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum australis*.) Two nests were found, one containing three eggs, the other four. On April 12th, there was no change in those nests but two more were found, one empty, and one with three young birds and one egg. These young appeared to be about two days old. Three of these nests were in an area less than thirty feet across. The nest with young was several hundred feet away. On May 17th, the nest which had three eggs on the 11th, now contained three young. Photographs were taken on the 19th. These findings show that at least two broods of young are raised each year by Grasshopper Sparrows in Mecklenburg county, North Carolina.

On each trip to the area south of Charlotte I saw and heard Henslow's Sparrow. I do not know whether or not it breeds here since I have not yet located a nest.



B. R. Chamberlain, Jr., pointing into the nest of a Grasshopper Sparrow on high ground of an abandoned field, fifteen miles south of Charlotte, N. C., August 19, 1945.



Grasshopper Sparrow nest and eggs in depression below ground level at base of single grass clump, August 19, 1945. Illuminated with rear view mirror from car.

(Photographs by B. Rhett Chamberlain)

1945 Christmas Count, Dec. 23-30, Inclusive

This year, as usual, a considerable number of North Carolina Bird Club members will cooperate with the National Audubon Society in making a Christmas count of the number and kinds of birds in their community. *All local clubs, groups, and individuals are asked to make local counts wherever possible.* Enlist the help of every local bird enthusiast in this enjoyable game and see that beginners go with more experienced observers. Let's have Christmas counts from all of the regulars and from several new localities this year. The Audubon Society's suggestions for the 1945 count (their 46th Christmas Bird Count) are not yet available, but the rules used during the past two or three years should be satisfactory.

ABBREVIATED RULES FOR THE COUNT

1. Counts are to be made between December 23 and 30, inclusive.
2. An adequate count for North Carolina localities should last at least seven hours and may not extend beyond one calendar day. From dawn to dusk is best.
3. The total area covered must not exceed a circle 15 miles in diameter.
4. Birds not actually recorded in the area itself are not to be included in the totals.
5. Birds must be listed in the order of the A. O. U. check list as followed in most recent bird books, as *Birds of North Carolina* and Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds*. Do not use sub-specific names, except in a few cases where subspecies can be readily identified in the field and you have made such identification. (The *Audubon Magazine* does not use capitals unless a proper name is involved.)
6. Count all wild birds positively identified by sight or sound. Count exotic species, as English Sparrow and Starlings, on the same basis as native birds. In case of unusual rarity, substantiating details must be given in parenthesis, immediately following the records, with the initials of the observer vouching for its identification.
7. A numerical value is to be given to the number of birds seen. Necessary estimates of large flocks should be indicated as such, and the words "abundant," "common," and such are to be avoided.
8. Observations made on foot while covering a prescribed route which will remain the same from year to year is preferred. Each hour afield by a lone observer counts as one hour, but observers, when working as a party, record only total hours the party was in the field. If a party breaks up into smaller groups, the time should be adjusted accordingly. Mileage should be recorded on the same basis.
9. Each participant or each party should submit only one report. The count should be submitted under the name of the most significant geographical locality in or adjacent to the area. Give the time of starting, ending, weather conditions, number of observers, the various habitat types covered and the total percentage of time spent in each, number of miles covered by cars and on foot, and names of observers.
10. If possible, reports should be typewritten (about 39 spaces to each line for the Audubon Society) double spaced, and one side of the paper. Mail a report to the National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y. Mail another copy to *The Chat*, care Woman's College U. N. C., Greensboro, N. C., not later than January 1. Give names of all participants. A record on a *separate sheet of paper of the names and addresses of all participants* will be appreciated.

11. Check your report with the following sample report to see that it conforms.

Sample Report:

White Pine Bird Sanctuary (Clover Co.,) Ill. (same area as 1927 count and subsequent counts; pine woodland 70%; pasture land 20%; small ponds 10%). Dec. 23. Overcast, with heavy fog until 10 a. m. and light snowfall from 3 p. m. on; wind N., 13-18 m. p. m.; temp. 40 degrees to 20 degrees F.; ground bare, water open. Three observers together. Total hours, 10 on foot; total miles, 12 on foot. Common loon, 1; Am. bittern, 1; European widgeon (a male seen at 500 yds. with 20X scope—H.L.M.), 1; Am. golden-eye, 100 (est); Barrow's golden-eye, 1; kingfisher, 2; flicker, 6; Carolina chickadee, 21; Am. pipit, 6; yellow-throat (seen daily since Nov.), 1; English sparrow, 27; red-wing, 2,000 (est.); grackle, 6; slate-colored junco, 270. Total, 29 species, approximately 2,897 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 22: Canada goose, 17; mallard, 2; coot, 5. The unusually heavy population of graineating species was due to the large amount of waste grain still available as a result of a severe storm just before the fall harvest season.)—H. L. MARK, R. C. SMITH, MARY PELT.

Executive Board Meeting in Charlotte

October sixth was indeed a rainy day but did it dampen the spirits of the birdlovers? Had they been low in spirits on arrival, all gloom would have disappeared immediately when greeted by our charming hostess, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, who with Mr. Clarkson left nothing undone that would contribute to the pleasure of their guests and the success of the meeting. There were so many enthusiastic greetings and warm hand-shakes one felt that there was a kindred spirit and a common purpose among the entire group.

Delegates present from the various local clubs were are follows: Asheville, Capt. and Mrs. A. W. Angwin; Boone, Dr. R. C. Busteed; Charlotte, Miss Sarah Nooe and B. R. Chamberlain; Greensboro, Mrs. Chas. M. Swart; Henderson, Miss Elizabeth Fox; Hickory, J. W. Clinard; Statesville, Misses Grace and Ina Anderson; Tryon, G. A. Holmes; Wilmington, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry and Gregory Rohwer. The younger group of members was represented by Jim Leyton and Binford Moon of Charlotte. Mrs. Edith Settan, chairman of the Membership Committee and Harry Davis, who succeeded Dr. Bostian as chairman of the Education Committee, brought reports from their respective committees.

The members of the Executive Board present were: Miss Clara Hearne, president; Mrs. O. F. Jensen and Mrs. W. M. Burwell, vice-presidents; Nancy Eliason, secretary; Mrs. Margaret Wall, treasurer; Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, editor of *The Chat*; Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson members at large. Henry Magie, second vice-president was unable to attend because of business engagements.

Mrs. Wall reported that the Club has sufficient funds to meet all expenses of the current year with some surplus.

Mrs. Settan stated that there are approximately six hundred paidup members and plans are to begin work in November for new 1946 memberships. All members are asked to work for more contributing memberships. It was recommended that the complete membership be added in the form of a supplement to an early issue of *The Chat*.

There is plenty of evidence that the teachers of the State are interested in bird conservation and our educational program. Harry Davis reported that the offer to help teachers, which was made in the September issue of North Carolina Education, had brought many requests for further information. The committee plans to send

them some seasonal material each month. Dr. A. H. Perry of the State Department of Education is interested in the program and has offered his co-operation. In the school year 1944-45 there were 9000 North Carolina children enrolled in Audubon Junior Clubs.

Miss Grace Anderson gave some interesting information about the sanctuary at Moore General Hospital, and to her remarks, Capt. Angwin of the Naval Hospital at Asheville added some pertinent statements concerning the sanctuaries at Moore and Oteen.

According to Dr. Shaftesbury, plans are being made to improve the cover of *The Chat* and increase the number of pages. Local clubs are asked to report each year the names of the newly-elected officers. Members are also urged to send in their bird notes and records from their respective areas.

The advisability of incorporating the North Carolina Bird Club was discussed and a report on this will be made at the State meeting in May.

Several members present expressed interest in a reserve fund. Possible uses of such a fund were suggested. Among suggestions were the following: The establishment of a nature center somewhere in the central part of the State; a traveling museum; and a strong educational program.

The following items were discussed and passed upon:

1. A prize of \$25.00 to be given this school year to the Negro high school student for the best essay on ornithology. This corresponds to the prize offered to white schools by the Academy of Science.
2. A donation of \$5.00 to the North Carolina Roadside Development and Beautification Council for a War Memorial of Roadside Beautification in memory of those who have given their lives in the war.
3. The purchase of an addressograph to be used in mailing *The Chat*.

Our minds were diverted from business while Mrs. Clarkson served a most delicious luncheon. While this was being enjoyed, bird notes and records were exchanged and interesting observations were related. Further entertainment was afforded by "Cousin Jane", a pet robin, and by "Mona Lisa," a mourning dove, both exhibiting the charm and graciousness of Mrs. Clarkson.

Interest was keen, but delegates had to travel so the meeting was adjourned and a rising vote of thanks given to Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson for their hospitality. After adjournment there was time for a brief visit to the lovely garden where bird care and protection predominate. The guests left with a feeling that with such interest and enthusiasm the North Carolina Bird Club will continue to carry out the purpose for which it was organized.

CLARA HEARNE.

Field Notes and News

EARLY DATE FOR PIPITS: On September 6, 1945, while at Hickory I saw a flock of about fifty Pipits. This is the earliest date for North Carolina. On the same day and place I also saw an Osprey.
D. L. WRAY

WILLET AT RALEIGH: On August 13, 1945 while observing herons and other birds at Lake Myra near here I was surprised to see a Willet fly up from the edge of the pond. It was at once recognized by its size and the broad white band across each wing.
ERNEST MITCHELL, JR.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON NESTING AT RALEIGH: An adult or two of this species hung around Boone's Pond so persistently that we suspected

they must have a nest. On June 2, 1945, we found it in a pine just inside the city limits. It was 65 feet high, and three or four feet from the trunk, and contained young birds nearly ready to fly. The nest was found by seeing the old birds carry food to the young.

JOHN COFFEY, JR.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK AGAIN AT STATESVILLE: The larks nested again this year on Cliff Crawford's farm, but unfortunately the first brood were eaten by crows. A second nest however was built in an oatfield and the young left the nest on the fourth of July.

GRACE ANDERSON.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER AT LAKE WACCAMAW: On June 7, 1945, while down here I noticed a warbler bringing food to its young which were in a nest quite concealed within a bunch of Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia*) hanging from a pine, about 15 feet above the water. The birds were unmistakably Yellow-throated Warblers.

D. L. WRAY

CHARLOTTE: On August 12, I found within the city limits of Charlotte, a nest with two half grown Field Sparrows, which is a late breeding record. On August 11, about 15 miles south of Charlotte, I watched a well grown brood of Blue Grosbeaks being escorted by a parent. I saw another brood of these birds in the same locality on August 19.

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

WILD TURKEY NOTES: On May 26 while surveying near Scranton, S. C., I found a Wild Turkey's nest containing ten eggs. In 1906 while surveying Cool Lands in the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, we found five nests on one tract of 500 acres. In all, we saw several hundred turkeys. In April 1940, while cruising timber in Roanoke River Swamp in Bertie county, North Carolina, we found nine nests on about 2000 acres of high swamp. The number of eggs ran from nine to thirteen.

HOWARD WISWALL, Asheville, N. C.

ROCKY MOUNT: On Sunday, October 7, I observed a single Junco among a small flock of Chipping Sparrows under one of my feeding stations and a little later saw the same bird darting in and out of the nearby bird bath. Knowing that this was early for this species locally, I looked up the record in the latest edition of "*Birds of North Carolina*," and found it to be about ten days earlier for the state than recorded there. I wondered if there is a record of earlier arrival dates for this winter visitor.

J. W. E. JOYNER.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS AT STATESVILLE: On July 28, 1945, two male Red-cockaded Woodpeckers chasing each other landed very close to me, about nine feet from my seat on my front porch and on eye level. With backs to me they faced each other motionless for a second, then turned their heads about for a short time. My sister and I exclaimed in low tones, "I've never seen that bird before." I knew they were woodpeckers. There was no white down their backs; backs very black with white lateral streaks—zebra-backed. Each bird had a narrow red mark at side of head. I have heard of one unconfirmed report of this bird here before,—many years ago.

GRACE ANDERSON

TRYON, N. C., May 28, 1945: Yesterday the birds in the garden gave the alarm and I found on immediate investigation that a large blacksnake was raiding a cat-bird's nest in the pear tree covered with wisteria. I finally caught sight of the snake and shot him out before he had actually gotten to the nest. I found that his body was much distended at one point, and cutting him open found a full grown Brown Thrasher inside. It had been swallowed head first, probably the day before, as the head but not the body was digested, all except the bill and skull. I measured the bird $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, showing a full grown bird. The snake was 49 inches

long. Imagine the beast, when he was as full as that, going for another. Almost every nesting season I kill a blacksnake in the garden raiding the nests. I believe these snakes probably kill as many young birds as stray cats do. Apparently they are the only snakes which interfere with birds. The copperheads, which are common here, only hunt the ground rats and cotton rats, and probably do a lot of good, and as a rule are good natured and gentle.

G. H. HOLMES.

WINSTON-SALEM: The first Canada Geese arrived on October 4th., on the private lake owned by A. G. Gordon near here. This is two weeks earlier than former years record. Gordon, who is a good sportsman, has for twelve years been wintering and feeding Canada Geese, and Mallards and other ducks. He also propagates Bream, crappie, and Bass, and donates fingerlings to other private lakes and to the city water works 500 acre lake. On the morning of October 22, a large flock of Canada Geese, estimated at 1000, arrived on the Yadkin river at "Wiltshire," the estate of S. Clay Williams, one of the co-operative land owners who have been winter feeding Canada Geese on the six miles of Yadkin River Waterfowl Refuge. Twenty-six European Deer (spotted) escaped from a private estate and are now ranging near Winston-Salem. Three deer jumped a fence into the Reynolda Bird Sanctuary last Saturday, October 20.

HENRY MAGIE

KING RAILS NEST IN CHARLOTTE: On May 4, 1945 I found a King Rail's nest with ten eggs within the city limits of Charlotte. The nest was in a clump of wire grass about three hundred feet from Briar Creek, and within twenty feet of an old dirt road. When found it was over several inches of standing water which later dried out. On May 5th, there were still ten eggs, but on the 6, there were eleven. On May 7, I found that something had destroyed most of the eggs, leaving the shells scattered about. The three eggs that were undamaged I tried to hatch by putting them in a box with a light bulb. I almost succeeded, because later examination showed that one of the chicks had developed until the black down was beginning to show. On May 30, and again on June 4, I saw another King Rail leading a set of at least four young along the banks of Briar Creek, about a quarter of a mile above the point where the nest was found.

JIM LAYTON

ELKIN: Here are some observations on summer visitors, transients, and winter visitors which I have made since my discharge from the Army. Field trips of about three hours were made each morning from October 7 through October 19 except October 14 and 18. An unexpected observation of a Maryland Yellow-throat was made in Salisbury on October 5 at a night football game. The following list is from my observations at Elkin and at Klondike Farm, which is located four miles north of Elkin on U. S. Highway 21: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, October 10 (4), October 12, (2); Eastern Kingbird, October 8; Brown Creeper, October 10, October 11 (3), October 13; Winter Wren, October 17; Brown Thrasher, October 15; Hermit Thrush, October 16, October 17 (2); Golden-crowned Kinglet, October 12 (5), October 15 (10), Oct. 17 (15); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 9 (4); Oct. 11 (8), Oct. 15 (3), October 17 (7), October 19 (2); Cedar Waxwing, October 15, (35), October 16 (80), October 19 (50); Blue-headed Vireo, October 15 (3); Magnolia Warbler, October 13 (4), October 15 (3); Black-throated Blue Warbler, October 7, (1), 9 (4), 10 (10), 11 (4), 12 (1), 13 (4); Myrtle Warbler, October 19 (3); Black-throated Green Warbler, October 9 (7), 10 (1), 11 (1), 13 (1), 15 (1); Oven-bird, October 10 (11); Hooded Warbler, October 9; Scarlet Tanager, October 11; Purple Finch, October 16 (10), October 17 (10); Junco, October 16 (3); Chipping Sparrow, October 19 (1); White-throated Sparrow, October 11 (1) 15 (15), 16 (4), 17 (2), 19 (2). I also observed the rather scarce Pileated Woodpecker at Elkin on October 7.

ROBERT H. WITHERINGTON.

SONG SPARROWS NESTING AT GREENSBORO: Since 1943, Song Sparrows have been heard and seen in increasing numbers in Greensboro during the late spring and early summer. Local bird students suspected that they had extended their nesting range to this region, but until this spring no nests had been found. On April 24, 1945, Tom Zapf went on a searching trip for nests in the Lake Daniel region where three or more Song Sparrows had been observed singing. In a 7-foot dense evergreen he found one nest, with three young birds, which was reported in the May issue of THE CHAT (V. 9, No. 3, p. 45-46.) Another nest in the same region and in a similar location was found Sunday, June 3rd, by several members of the Piedmont Bird Club while on a field trip. This nest had four eggs. A week later, on June 10th, at 2 p. m., the eggs had not hatched. At noon on June 12, four young were present, apparently about two days old. When checked again on Thursday, June 14th, at 3:30 p. m., the fledglings were gone. The nest did not appear to have been disturbed. Perhaps the young had been prey for some feathered predator. In mid-July a third nest, abandoned but definitely a Song Sparrow's nest, was collected in the same general locality. A. D. S.

SOUTHPORT: June 9, 10, 11, John Trott, of New London, Roxie Simpson, formerly of Raleigh, now with the National Museum in Washington, D. C., with Oscar Williams and myself spent in Southport. On June 9th, while walking along the beach on Smith's Island we flushed flocks of gulls and terns totaling over two thousand birds, mostly Laughing Gulls (immature), Herring Gulls, and Royal Terns, with a few Ring-billed Gulls. We walked over three miles inland and climbed the lighthouse, 180 feet high and looked the island over. On the way back across the island we counted 18 Painted Buntings, mostly singing males. We found one nest and the young were seen in trees nearby being fed by the parents. A Striped Chicken Snake which made the mistake of climbing for a meal of baby Painted Buntings was bagged. We also visited Battery Island and thought the heron colony was larger than ever, the increase is with the Louisiana Herons, the American and Snowy Egrets having decreased slightly. On this trip I banded 10 Louisianas, two Snowys, and a single American Egret. The Americans lay earlier and most of the young were flying. On the south tip of Battery island we visited a Black Skimmer colony, with eighteen nests, which averaged four eggs each, a few having three or five eggs. The Skimmers circling about made a din with their barking calls until we left.

On June 10th we made a trip to Orton plantation, saw Painted Buntings again, and studied the Osprey colony at Orton Pond. We also found a large colony of Great Blue Herons on "Middle Island," really a peninsula-like hill, with huge pines, jutting into the lake. The Great Blue Herons' nests, about 25, were high in the pines and we could see very little of them.

The following is our total list: Florida Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Turkey and Black Vultures, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Bob-white, Clapper Rail, Oyster Catcher, Wilson's Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Sanderling, Herring, Ring-billed, and Laughing Gulls, Least and Royal Terns, Black Skimmer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Flicker, Red-bellied, Red-headed, and Hairy Woodpeckers, Kingbird, Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Wren, Mocking Bird, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Shrike, Starling, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Prothonotary, Parula, and Pine Warbles, Maryland Yellow-throat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, English Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Indigo and Painted Buntings, and Towhee. Total, 66 species. (October 4, 1945.)

NORMAN B. McCULLOCH, JR.

With the Editor

EXECUTIVE BOARD TO MEET: The next meeting of the Executive Board of the North Carolina Bird Club will be held in Greensboro, and the date has been tentatively set for January 26, when it is hoped that Wayne Short can be present and discuss plans for the Audubon Screen tours for 1946-1947.

PUBLICITY FOR THE N. C. BIRD CLUB: *The Winston-Salem Journal* of March 11, in an article about the Winston-Salem City Library, makes a nice mention of the North Carolina Club and *The Chat*. *The Welfare and Recreation Bulletin* of the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital, Asheville, in its March 30 issue quotes portions of two articles from the March issue of *The Chat*.

THE BIRD FEEDING STATION PHOTOGRAPH: With Capt. Wm. A. Angwin and patient S. T. Holt, S 2/c, used in the article on feeding winter birds in this issue of *The Chat*, is loaned to the N. C. Bird Club through the courtesy of Capt. Angwin, Medical Officer in Command of the U. S. Naval Special Hospital, at Asheville. The picture originally appeared in *At Ease*, monthly publication from the hospital in connection with a feature article on their general outdoor program for rehabilitation of patients.

ARE YOU INTERESTED: In a Field Trip to eastern North Carolina, say in February, to see the Ducks, and Geese, and Swans? Bird enthusiasts at Greensboro are planning such a trip, to be made after the end of the waterfowl hunting season—which, by the way, has been extended ten days in eastern North Carolina this season, to include January 20. Plans have not yet been completed, but the group plans to leave Greensboro on a Friday and return Sunday afternoon. If you are interested in joining this group, drop a card to the editor of *The Chat*, care W. C. U. N. C., Greensboro, N. C.

BOMBING PRACTICE HALTED IN CURRITUCK: According to press reports the U.S. Navy has discontinued all bombing practice in Currituck sound and other similar coastal areas inhabited at this season by migratory waterfowl. Early reports from the coastal regions indicate a crop of plenty of grass and other feed for migratory waterfowl, and present indications are that the birds will be much more abundant than last year, particularly since the number of naval and military aircraft around the tidewater section of North Carolina and Virginia is probably much reduced since last year.

N. C. BIRD CLUB MEMBERS IN PRINT: In the July-August issue of *Audubon Magazine* (vol. 47, no. 4, p. 230-233), is an attractive article, "Wing Haven," written by Mrs. Elizabeth Barnhill Clarkson, of Charlotte, N. C. The article, which is accompanied by two photographs and a ground plan of Wing Haven, tells of the transformation of a field of broomstraw and basement dirt into Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson's attractive garden of trees and flowers for the birds . . . "Birds—An Interesting Hobby," in the September issue of *North Carolina Education* (v. 12, no. 1, p. 22), is an excellent article written by Mrs. Augustus W. Bachman, of the Henderson Bird Club. Mrs. Bachman, who is a member of the Education Committee of the N. C. Bird Club, addresses her article to the school teachers . . . "Wheel Chair Naturalist Afield and at Work," in October's *Nature Magazine* (vol. 38, no. 8, p. 433-ff.), a fascinating story of Evelyn Hendricks, the farm girl "wheel chair naturalist," who lives near Nashville, N. C., is from the pen of North Carolina's popular Nature writer, Charlotte Hilton Green, whose home is at Raleigh.

Unless You Have Already Paid Your Membership Fee for 1946

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE JANUARY 1st

Of course the North Carolina Bird Club Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C., is not sending you a bill until about January 1st, *BUT* we are making the suggestion that we hope you can find it convenient to remit your dues before that time so as to save a lot of late holiday work for your Treasurer. Remember, the North Carolina Bird Club has no paid officers. Thank you for considering this suggestion.

Regular Membership	\$ 1.00	Contributing Membership	25.00
Supporting Membership	5.00	Life Membership	100.00

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